

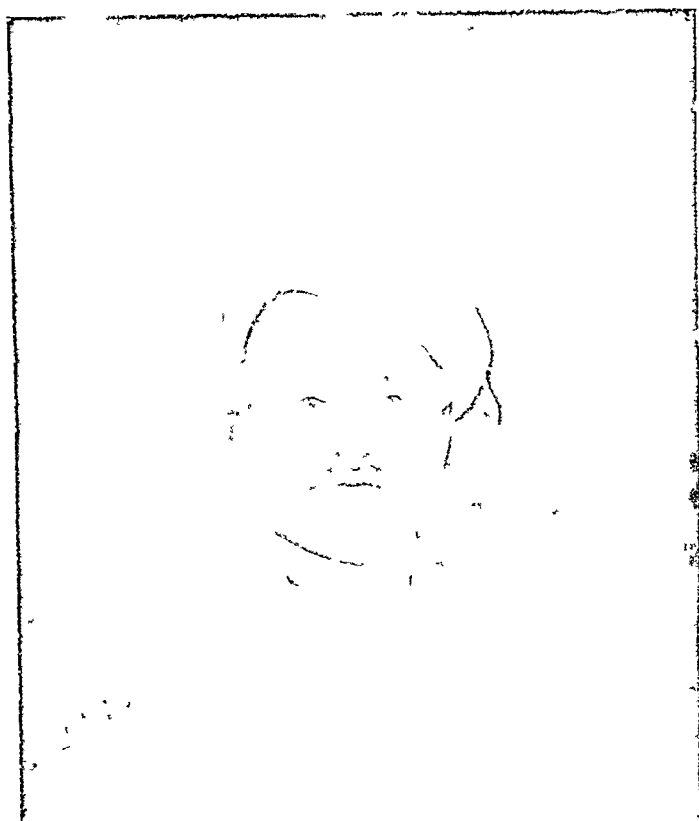
THE
IMPERIAL DURBAR ALBUM
OF
THE INDIAN PRINCES, CHIEFS
AND ZAMINDARS.

Vol. II.

PURSHOTAM VISHRAM MAWJEE,
J. P., M.R.A.S.

THE LAKSHMI ART PRINTING WORKS.
BOMBAY.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.



MAHARAJADHIRAJ LALKAMAL DEO
MAHARAJA OF KANKER

Kanker.

THIS is a Feudatory State in the Central Provinces of which the head-quarters are at the village from which it receives its name and which is situated about 39 miles from Dhamtari Station on the Raipur-Dhamtari branch of the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

The ruling chief belongs to a very old Rajput family, and, according to tradition, his ancestors were raised to the throne by a vote of the people. During the supremacy of the Haihai-wanshi dynasty of Chhatisgarh, the chief of Kanker is shown in an old record as in subsidiary alliance with that ruling power, and as having held the Dhamtari tract within their territories.

During the palmy days of the Mahrattas, the Kanker State was held on condition of furnishing a military contingent 500 strong whenever required. In 1809 A.D. it was wrested from the hands of the then reigning chief; but nine years later, *i.e.* in 1818 A.D., it was restored by the British Resident at Nagpur to the chief on his agreeing to pay a tribute of Rs. 500 per annum. Even this was remitted in 1823 A.D. on account of the resumption by the British Government of the custom duties formerly levied and collected by the chief. This Estate thus enjoys a total exemption from the payment of any tribute to the Paramount Power.

Narhar Deo who was on the *gadi* at the time of the Indian Mutiny remained firm in his allegiance to the British Government, and as a recognition, in 1865 A.D. he was granted a deed of adoption. In 1889 A.D. the chief evinced signs of mental derangement brought on by domestic grief, and hence in the interests of the State, the supreme Government appointed a Diwan to look after it. The arrangement, however, was not found quite satisfactory and the management of the State was, therefore, entrusted to a British superintendent acting under the immediate control of the Political Agent, and he remained in charge till 1904 A.D., when the present Chief Lal Kamal Deo was installed on the ancestral *gadi*.

The area of the State is 1,430 square miles, of which only about 21 per cent is under cultivation. A large part of the area, about 350 square miles, is covered with forests, and its produce has been brought within the reach of the Railway line to Dhamtari which was opened quite recently and a large income is obtained from the sale of timber.

The population of the State is about 1,15,000, of which nearly half consists of Gonds and Halbas. The total revenue is about Rs. 1,60,000 of which nearly one half is derived from land revenue.

The relations of the State with the Paramount Power are under the supervision of the Political Agent under the Commissioner of the Chhatisgarh Division.



RAJA LAL BAHADUR SINGH
RAJA OF KHAIRGARH,

Khairgarh.

THIS is a Feudatory State in the Central Provinces. Its ruling chief belongs to the Nagawanshi Rajput clan. The original founder of the family was a descendant of Raja Fanimukut Rai who had founded the dominion of Chota Nagpur. Raja Prithwi Rai who was the 39th in descent from Raja Fanimukut Rai had two sons—Pratab Rai and Laxminidhi Rai. On the death of Prithwi Rai, a quarrel arose between the two brothers; and in 1484 A.D. the younger, Laxminidhi Rai abandoned his native country and journeyed to Garh Mandala in the Central Provinces. Arjun-Shah, the ruler of Garh Mandala, received the new-comer warmly and made him his prime minister. For certain valuable services Arjun Shah conferred the Kholwa Pargana on Laxminidhi Rai in 1487 A.D.

Laxminidhi Rai left Mandala with the permission of his patron and established himself as Raja of Kholwa. In 1540 A.D., the Gonds of the Chhatisgarh Division contemplated invading Mandala *via* Kholwa. Ghanesham Rai who was ruling at the latter place, faced the Gonds, gave them a signal defeat, killed their leader and carried his head as a trophy to the ruler of Mandala; and as a reward received the Bodhagarh Pargana now known as Khairgarh. The town of Khairgarh itself was founded by Kharg Rai, a descendant of Raja Laxminidhi Rai, in 1755 A.D.

In 1788 A.D. Raja Tikait Rai, the son of Raja Kharg Rai invaded Dhamda and conquered it, but it was restored on payment of a heavy ransom. In 1795 A.D. Raja Tikait Rai secured the Khamaria Pargana in mortgage from the Raja of Kawardha and was consequently incorporated into the State owing to failure in repayment of the loan by the latter. In 1818 A.D. Ghasidas, the Raja of Singarpur, revolted and Sir R. Jenkins, the Resident at Nagpur, desired Tikait Rai to capture Ghasidas. This was done, and as a recognition of the assistance, the British Government gave half of the Singarpur state to Tikait Rai, and the other half to the chief of Raj-Nandgaon for his aiding Tikait Rai. Thus it was that gradually but surely the rulers of Khairgarh built up their state.

In 1865 A.D. the Hon'ble Sir R. Temple, the then Chief Commissioner of Nagpur, invested Raja Lal Fateh Singh, the grandson of Raja Tikait Rai, with the powers of a feudatory chief. He died in 1874 A.D. and was followed by his son Lal Umrao Singh. He was an orthodox Hindu and ruled his State according to Indian ideas, but with a generosity and kindness which endeared him to his subjects. On his death in 1890 A.D., he was followed by his son Lal Kamal Narayan Singh. The title of Raja was conferred on him as a hereditary distinction by the Paramount Power in 1898 A.D.

Raja Kamal Narayan Singh died in 1908 A.D. and has been succeeded by his son Raja Lal Bahadur Singh, who has received his education at the Rajkumar College at Raipur and has been ruling his Estate with a sympathy and earnestness to do good to his subjects. He is connected by marriage relationship with the prime minister of Nepal.

The area of the State is about 850 square miles with the population of 1,38,000 inhabitants. The annual revenue is Rs. 3,03,000 of which Rs. 70,000 to be paid as tribute to the British Government.



MAHANT RAJENDRA DAS
CHIEF OF RAJ NANDGAON

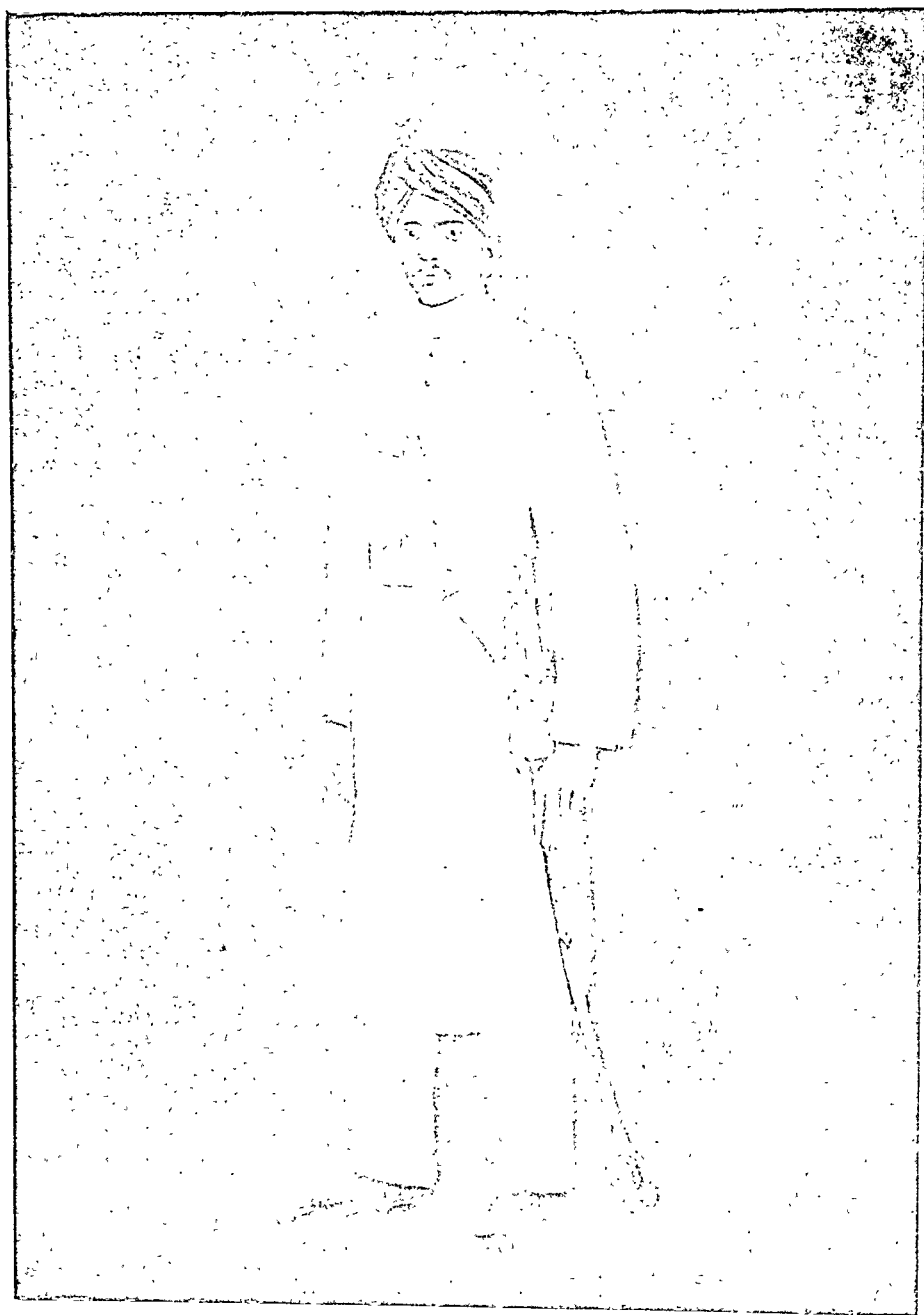
Raj-Nandgaon.

THIS is a Feudatory State in the Central provinces under the supervision of the Commissioner of the Chhatisgarh Its capital is situated at Raj-Nandgaon, a station on the Bengal Nagpur Railway

The ruling family are *Bairagis* by caste, and as celibacy is one of the observances of this order, the succession devolved on the *chela* or disciple adopted by the *mahant* or devotee The first *mahant*, who came from the Panjab commenced money lending business in Ratanpur towards the end of the Eighteenth Century, with the consent of Bimbaji Bhonsle The *parganahs* of Pandadeh and Nandgaon were acquired by these money-lenders from the Gond and Mahomedan land-holders in satisfaction of their loans. Mohgaon was conferred on Ramdas, the fifth *mahant*, by the Raja of Nagpur in 1723 A.D.

Nandgaon entered into Feudatory relations with the British Government in 1865 A.D. during the time of Ghasidas, the seventh *mahant* from the founder, who received the usual *sanad* guaranteeing adoption Ghasidas gave up the vow of celibacy, entered upon a matrimonial life, and had a son, whom also he got married at a comparatively early age. Ghasidas represented this departure from the consuetude to the paramount power. In 1879 A.D. the Government of India informed Ghasidas that his son would be recognised as his successor This son, Mahant Balaram Das, succeeded his father as a minor in 1883 A.D. and was installed in 1891 A.D. He was distinguished by his munificent contributions to objects of public utility among which may be mentioned the Raipur and the Raj-Nandgaon water-works He received the title of Raja Bahadur in 1893 A.D. and died in 1897 A.D. leaving an adopted son Rajendra Das who was only four years old at the time. The State during the minority is being managed by a Political Agent under the supervision of the Commissioner of Chhatisgarh Division, and the Ruler has been receiving his education at the Raj-Kumar College, Raipur.

The area of the State is 875 square miles, the greater part of which consists of rich dark soil, and about 63 of it has been under cultivation, and about 141 square miles are covered with forest The total population of the State has been about 1,30,000. The total revenue under all heads is Rs. 3,50,000 of which the sum of Rs. 70,000 is the present annual tribute payable to the British Government



H. H. THE MAHARAJA JAWAHIR SINGH.
CHIEF OF SARANGARH.

Sarangarh.

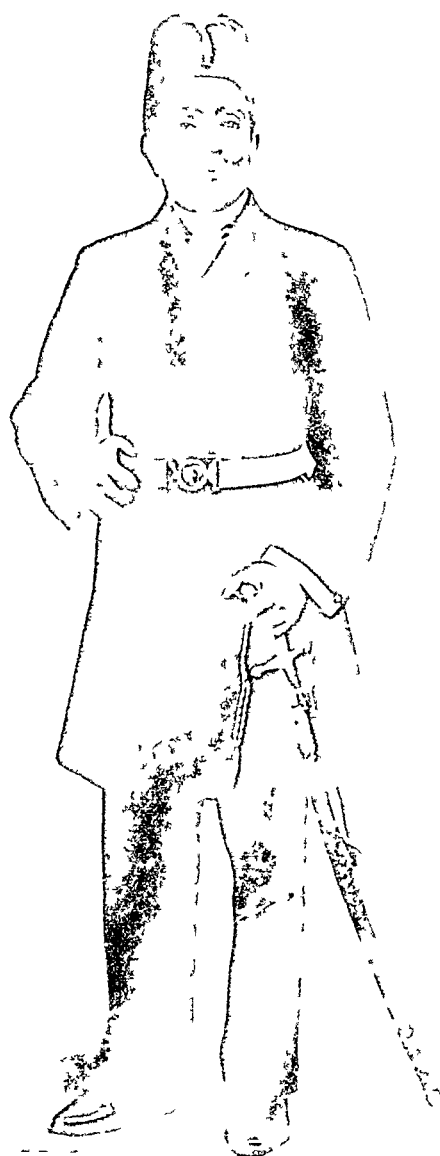
SARANGARH is a feudatory State in the Central Provinces. The family of the Chief, it is said, migrated from Lanji in the Bhandara District, many generations ago. Sarangarh was at first a dependency of the Ratanpur Raj, and afterwards became one of the eighteen Garhjat States subordinate to Sambalpur. Kalyan Sai, Chief of Sarangarh, was recognised as a Raja by the Mahrattas. He died in 1777 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Vishwanath Sai, a brave and broad-minded ruler. In 1778 A.D., Mr. Alexander Elliot was sent by the Governor-General of India on a mission to the Court of Nagpur. While passing through the Chhattisgarh States he died of fever. The surrounding Rajas refused to grant a piece of ground for his grave, but Vishwanath Sai readily gave it and the English envoy was buried at Saler. The grave is still there and is kept in repairs by the British Government. The Governor-General presented an elephant and a dress of honour to the Chief of Sarangarh for his generous act.

In 1781 A.D. Vishwanath Sai received a *sanad* from Raja Jait Singh of Sambalpur, awarding him the *Saria pargana* consisting of 84 villages, in recognition of the military services rendered by him to the Raja. He also received presents from the Raja of Nagpur including an elephant, a horse with complete accoutrements, a drum, and a mace, for services rendered to him on several occasions. Vishwanath Sai died in 1808 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Subha Sai, who ruled only for seven years. His two sons, Bhikam Sai and Tikam Sai, died soon after him in succession, leaving no male issue. Their uncle Gujraj Singh then ascended the *gadi*. Sangram Singh, son of Gujraj Singh, succeeded him in 1830 A.D. and ruled for about 42 years. He received the *sanad* guaranteeing him the right of adoption in 1865 A.D., and a *sanad* defining his status as a Feudatory Chief in 1867 A.D. Under the latter, the Chief is permitted to administer his State with full criminal, revenue, and civil powers, subject to certain prescribed conditions. Raja Sangram Singh died in 1872 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Bhawani Pratap Singh, who was only 10 years old at the time. During his minority, the State was managed by his mother and his cousin Lal Raghubar Singh.

In 1889 A.D. Raja Bhawani Pratap Singh died, and was succeeded by his cousin Raghubar Singh, after whom came his son, the present chief, Raja Jawahir Singh, who was born in 1888 A.D. During his minority, the State was managed by the Political Agent for the Chhattisgarh Feudatory States. Raja Jawahir Singh received his education at the Rajkumar College at Raipur, and after a training in the various branches of administration, was duly put in charge of his State in November 1909 A.D. The chief is an accomplished young man taking no small interest in the administration of his State.

The total area of the State is 540 square miles having nearly 80,000 population and an average annual revenue of 80,000 Rupees per annum.

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.



NAWAB SAYAD GULAM ALI KHAN BAHADUR
NAWAB OF BANGANPALLE

Banganpalle.

THE Banganpalle state is situated in the Karnool district and is under the political control of the Madras Government. The ruler belongs to the Shiyah sect of the Mahomedans and traces his ancestry from Sayad Mahomed Khan Ruzvi, the minister of Shah Abbas II Emperor of Persia about the year 1633 A.D.

Banganpalle was under the sway of a Hindu ruler prior to 1651 A.D. It was conquered by Ismail Adilshah along with the surrounding Jahagirs and were conferred by him on his general, Siddu Simbul, later on, the whole of the Deccan was conquered by Aurangzeb, and as a consequence Banganpalle passed directly under his supremacy. The Mughal emperor appointed Muhamad Beg Khan Rosebahandi, the uncle of his minister Mubariz Khan, as Killedar of Banganpalle. The descendents of Muhamad Beg Khan held the Jahagir till the death of Fazale Ali Khan II which occurred in 1769 A.D. As he died without issue, he was succeeded by Sayad Husain Ali Khan, his sister's son by Sayad Mahomed Khan Nagdi.

Hussain Ali Khan was an ambitious youth. He obtained admission into the military service under Hyder Ali of Mysore and rose to distinction. He died in 1783 A.D. Tippu, the son and successor of Hyder was offended at the conduct of Husain Ali's widow and confiscated the Jahagir of Banganpalle. Husain Ali's brother and sons, of whom the eldest was Gulam Ali, had to fly for their lives. They went to Hyderabad and gradually earned great repute in its military service. They marched upon Banganpalle, defeated the Killedar Kutbudin at the battle of Tammadpalle, regained their ancestral territory and Sayad Gulam Ali Khan Mansur-ud-Dawlah became Jahagirdar of Banganpalle by right of conquest in 1793 A.D.; he continued as such till 1822 A.D., when he handed it over to his son Sayad Hussain Ali Khan II. It was during his administration that the Jahagir was assumed by the British Government owing to its being heavily involved in debt. He died in 1848 A.D. without male issue, and his nephew and son-in-law Sayad Gulam Ali Khan was recognized Jahagirdar by the paramount power and sanad was issued to him renewing the grant with civil and criminal jurisdiction except in regard to capital punishment. Likewise in 1862 A.D. a sanad guaranteeing succession according to Mahomedan law was granted to him. Sayad Gulam Ali Khan died in 1868 A.D. without any male issue and the succession to the Jahagir was contested by his widow and his nephew and son-in-law Fateh Ali Khan who ultimately received a sanad similar to that of 1849 A.D. from the Government of Madras in 1876 A.D. The title of Nawab was conferred upon Fateh Ali Khan as a hereditary distinction. During the latter part of his administration the estate was again involved in such grave financial difficulties that the Paramount Power had to take the management in their hands. Fateh Ali Khan died in 1905 A.D. and his eldest son Sayad Gulam Ali Khan was formally installed in December 1908 A.D.

The extent of the whole state is 27589 square miles. The territory does not contain any forest but the hills of the western portion contain diamond deposits and a small area of the tract has been leased out since 1906 A.D. The population is 32,000 and the total revenue of the state is Rs. 2,68,168.



MAHARAJA SRI RAO SIR VENKATA SVETACHALAPATI RANGA RAO BAHADUR, G. C. I. E.
RAJA OF BOBBILI.

Bobbili.

THE founder of the Bobbili house was Nirvana Rayappa generally known as Pedda Rayadu who was a brave soldier, and was the fifteenth in descent from the founder of the house of Venkatgiri. His rival was Madhava Varma, the ancestor of the Vizayanagram family. In 1652 A.D. Sher Mahamad Khan the Nawab of Chikakole marched against Vizagapatam accompanied by Pedda Rayadu, who distinguished himself so signally in this campaign that he was rewarded with the grant of the Rajam estate for his gallantry.

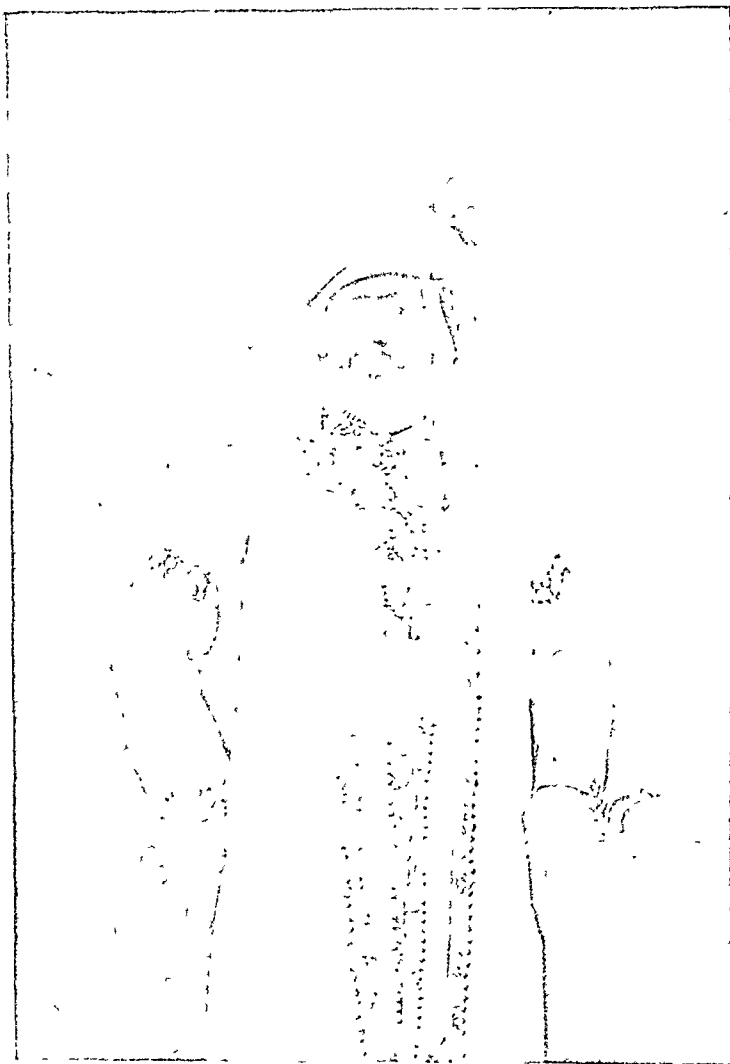
Pedda Rayadu built a fortress on the estate and named it Bebbooli (the royal tiger) in honour of his patron's name Sher (the tiger), and the Zamindari came to be known after the fort the name being gradually corrupted into Bobbili. In addition to the grant of this valuable estate the Mogul emperor conferred the title of Raja Bahadur on and the privilege of using certain insignia of royalty.

Pedda Rayadu was succeeded by his son Lingappa who was as brave and as devoted to the Mogul Emperor as his father. He received the title of Ranga Rao which is used by the holders of the Zamindari to this day.

The Bobbili estate bordered on that of Vizayanagram and there was constant friction between the two chiefs. During the time of Raja Gopal Krishna Ranga Rao Bahadur Guru—the sixth Raja of Bobbili—the turbulent conduct of the Poligars and the constant quarrels of the two chiefs called for measures of repression; the French general M. Bussy marched with a European force to restore order. The Raja of Vizayanagram who was the rival of the Raja of Bobbili was not slow in taking advantage of the situation. He assured the French general that the Raja of Bobbili was the prime instigator of all the disturbances. The attack on the fort at Bobbili which followed is one of the most memorable in Indian history. After twelve years hard fight the fort was taken only because every man in the garrison was dead or mortally wounded. Chinna Ranga Rao a little child saved from the slaughter was invested by Bussy with the estate and in 1801 A.D. a permanent settlement was concluded with his son for a tribute of Rs. 90,000.

Raja Sittaram Ranga Rao Bahadur one of the successors of Chinna Ranga Rao died about 1867 A.D. His widow Rani Laxmi Chellayamma Garu managed the estate very successfully. She adopted the third son of the Raja of Venkatgiri in 1872 A.D. He was formally installed on the gadi in 1881 A.D. and continues to manage his estate to the entire satisfaction of his subjects as also to that of the Paramount power. He went to Europe in 1893 A.D. where he met with a very cordial reception. In 1895 A.D. he was invested with the Knighthood of the Order of the Indian Empire, and in 1900 A.D. the title of Maharaja was conferred upon him as a personal distinction. He has been a member of the Madras Legislative Council. All in all the present Zamindar Maharaja Sir Venkata Swetachalapati Ranga Rao K. C. I. E. is one of the foremost noblemen of the Madras Presidency.

The area of the estate is 920 square miles and its revenue is about 5 lacs of Rupees.



MAHARAJA SHRI SIR VIKRAMA DEO GARU, K. C. I. E.
MAHARAJA OF JEYPORE.

Jeypore.

JEYPORE is a *zamindari* estate situated in Vizagapatam District in the Madras Presidency. It is divided into two portions, east and west, by the Kalahandi State of Bengal. Its ruler is a Rajput of Solar race and claims descent from Kanak Sen ruler of Jammu and Kashmir. In the fifteenth century, its founder, Vinayak Deo, married a daughter of the Gajpati King of Orissa, who bestowed upon him the Jeypore Principality. About the year 1652 A.D., when the founder of the Vizianagram family came to Chicacole in the train of the Golconda *Fauzadar*, Sher Muhammad Khan, the present Jeypore family was in possession not only of the country comprised within the present limits of the estate, but of all the hill *zamindaris* at the base of the *Ghats*. Jeypore subsequently became tributary to Vizianagram; but in 1794 A.D. the Madras Government granted the then Jeypore ruler, Sri Ramchandra Deo Maharaja, a separate *sanad* as a reward for his loyalty during their conflict with Vizianagram which ended with the battle of Padmanabham. In 1803 A.D. the *peshkesh* of the estate was fixed at Rs. 16,000.

Sri Ramchandra Deo was succeeded by his son, Sri Vikram Deo in 1825 A.D. who ruled the estate in an efficient manner and earned good will of his subjects. He died in 1860 A.D. and was succeeded by his son, Sri Ramchandra Deo, who voluntarily resigned the administration of Civil and Criminal justice in favour of the British.

The present Raja Sri Vikram Deo came to the *gadi* in 1895 A.D., after the death of his father. The title of Maharaja was conferred on him as a special distinction in 1896 A.D. He was married to a princess of Suraguja House in Udaipur, Chota Nagpur. He has a son named Sri Kumar Ramchandra Deo.

The area of the Jeypore estate is 11,526 square miles and the income is more than 10 lakhs. The population is about 900,000.



RAJA DAMARA KUMARA THIMMA NAYANIM, BAHADUR.

RAJA OF KALAHASTI.

Kalahasti.

KALAHASTI is one of the largest zamindari estates in Madras, situated partly in North Arcot District, partly in Nellore, and partly in Chingleput. Kalahasti is the residence of the Kalahasti zamindar. It is a thriving town carrying on a brisk trade in grain, bangles and many other articles. It is also famous for its hand-printed and hand-painted cotton fabrics. The town is famous for its Siva temple.

The early history of this estate is obscure. The original founder, who belonged to the velama caste, probably received it from a king of the Vijayanagar dynasty in the fifteenth century, on condition of maintaining order. The estate at one time spread as far as the site of Fort St. George, and the Company obtained the land, on which Madras now stands, from the proprietor in 1639 A.D.

The settlement is traditionally said to have been named Chennappapatnam in honour of the *zamindar's* father. The estate came under British control in 1792 A.D., and a formal grant to the family was made in 1801 A.D. The *zamindar* afterwards received the hereditary title of Raja.

The total area of Kalahasti estate is 1464 square miles with a population of 2,23,327 souls. The gross income amounts to over 5 lakhs. The *peshkesh* for the whole of it is 1·7 lakhs and the demand for land cess amounts to Rs. 35,000.

The name of the present *zamindar* is Raja Damara Kumara Thimma Nayanam, Bahadur.



HON. RAJA VENGANAD VASUDEV RAJA AVARGAL,
VALIYA NAMBI OF KOLLENGODE

Kollengode.

THE Raja of Kollengode represents an ancient and influential family of Chiefs in the fertile Palghat gap in south Malabar known as Venganad Rajas, and holds a high and honoured position in the social and religious organization of Malabar. He is called the Valia Nambidi of Kollengode. He owns large estates in the Nelliampathi and Anai-Malai Hills. The Raja has a beautiful palace at Kollengode about twelve miles away from Palghat, on the south-west line from Madras to Calicut, at the threshold of South Malabar. The country possesses an idyllic rural scenery around with its rich and extensive paddy flats. There are also many coffee plantations in the estate which have improved the trade of the place.

The present Raja of Kollengode, the Hon'ble Raja V. Vasudeo Raja, is a familiar and prominent figure in the public life of South India. Called early in life to the administration of the rich estate of the family, and having had the advantage of good education and high class training, he has used the great resources and immense influence of the family to his own credit and to the benefit of his people. His personality and winning manners have secured for him an honoured position and high esteem from Government. The title of Raja was conferred on him in 1901 A.D. as a personal distinction, and since then honours have been pouring on him in quick succession. Since 1906 A.D. he has been continuously on the Madras Legislative Council, where he has been doing very useful work. He is highly popular for his sterling merits. H. E. Lord Ampthill, the Governor of Madras, observed in one of his letters to the Raja, that "nothing could be better for India than an example of beneficence and unselfish devotion to public duty such as you are setting and it is to be hoped that many more of the great aristocratic land holders will do as you are doing."



H. H. THE RAJA SHRI MARTANDA BHAIRAVA TONDIMAN BAHADUR.
RAJA OF PUDUKKOTTAI.

Padukkottai.

PADUKKOTTAI is the third most important of the five Native States in political relations with the Government of Madras. It lies on the eastern side of the Madras Presidency and is bounded on the north and west by Trichinopoly District, the Collector of which is *ex-officio* Political Agent for the State, on the south by Madura and on the east by Tanjore. It is called after its chief town, the name "Pudukkottai" meaning "new fort". The State was formerly known as the Tondiman's country, from the family name of the ruling chief.

In early times the northern part of the present Padukkottai State belonged to the Chola kings, whose capital was at Uraiyur near Trichinopoly, and the southern part to the Pandya kings of Madura. About the middle of the sixteenth century Madura passed to the Naik dynasty, and its kings acquired the whole of the territory which makes up the present State. In the seventeenth century the country came into the possession of the Setupati of Ramnad, who appointed Raghunath Tondiman as chief of the district of Padukkottai. From him the present Rajas of Padukkottai trace their descent.

The relations of the English with the State began during the Carnatic wars of the eighteenth century. During the siege of Trichinopoly by the French in 1752 and 1753 A.D., the Tondiman of the time rendered valuable services to the Company, and also he was very useful in the wars with Haider Ali, and in the operations against the rebellious *paligars* of Sivaganga and Panjalamkurichi in Madura and Tinnevely districts respectively. In 1803 A.D. he solicited as a reward for his services the favourable consideration of his claim to the fort and district of Kilanelli in Tanjore, which was granted to him by the British Government in 1806 A.D. The grant was also made subject to the yearly tribute of an elephant. The tribute, however, was not insisted upon, and in 1836 A.D. was formerly excused.

Raja Vijaya Raghunath Tondiman died in 1807 A.D. leaving two sons, the elder of whom succeeded him and ruled till 1825 A.D. He was followed by his brother, Raja Raghunath Tondiman, who died in 1839 A.D. He was succeeded by his son, Raja Ramchandra Tondiman, who ruled the State till 1886 A.D.

The present Raja, His Highness Raja Sri Martanda Bhairava Tondiman Bahadur, who was born on November 27, 1875 A.D., succeeded his grandfather in 1886 A.D. as a minor. He is the grandson of Raja Ramchandra by his eldest daughter, and was adopted by the late Raja in 1877 A.D. During his minority the late celebrated Sir A. Seshayya Sastri K.C.S.I. was Dewan-Regent, who introduced several reforms in the State and brought it to a prominent rank. The present Raja who had been for some years under the private tuition of an English gentleman, was installed on November 27, 1894 A.D. Since his accession he has been ruling the State with great prudence and ability.

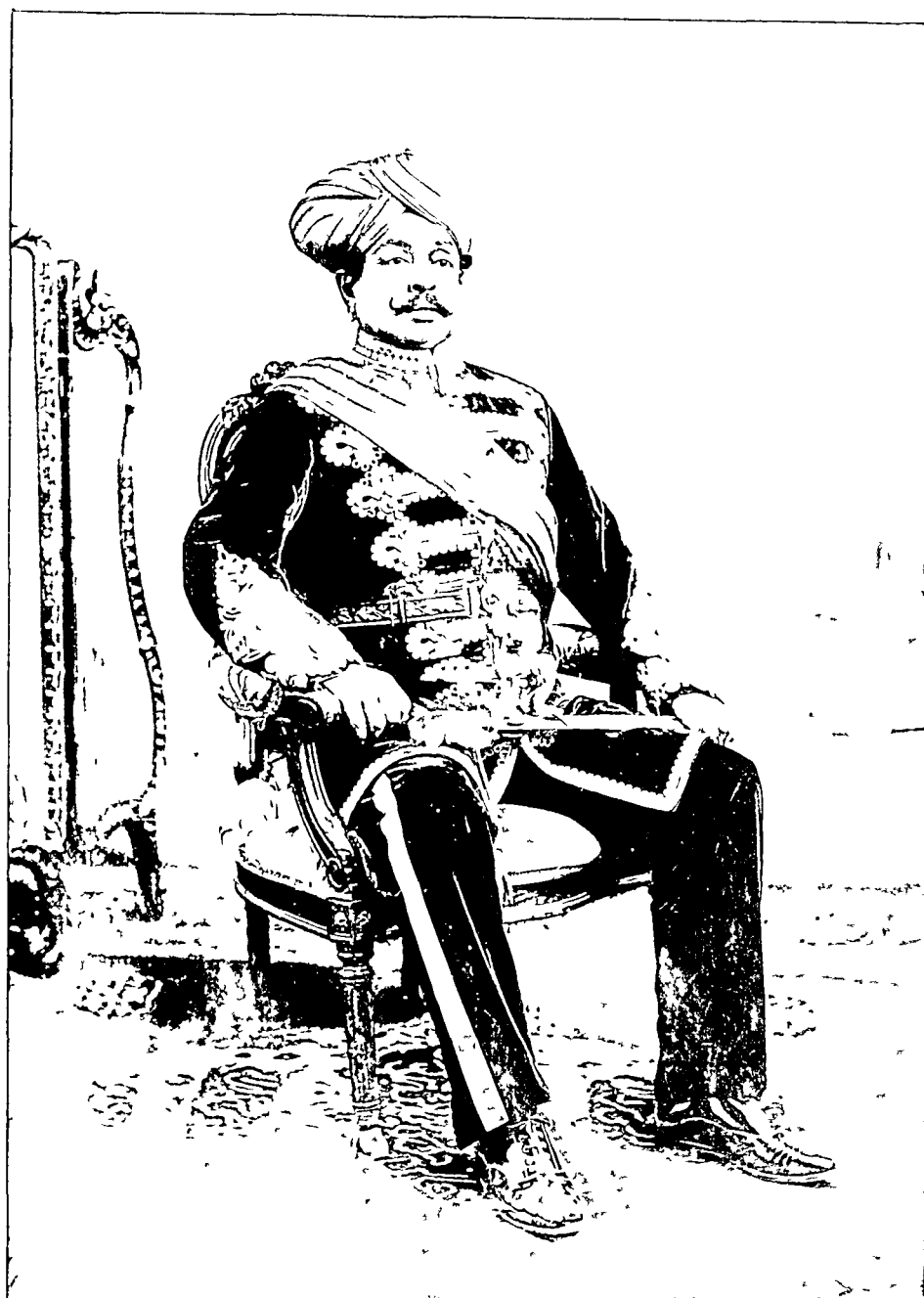
Since 1902 A.D. an assembly of representatives has been constituted on the lines of the Mysore assembly. It is composed of 30 persons, chosen by the State as representative of the various classes of the community, nominations being made by the heads of departments and by public institutions. The assembly meets once a year. The results

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of the preceding year's administration and the budget for the ensuing year are placed before it, and its members are allowed the privilege of interpellation on all matters connected with the administration.

The area of the State is 11,000 square miles, and measures 50 miles from east to west, and 40 miles from north to south. The population of the State was 380,440 in 1901 A.D. The total revenue is about Rs. 11,28,000.

The Raja of Pudukkottai is entitled to a salute of 11 guns.



RAJA SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA GAJAPATI NARAYAN DEVW
ZAMINDAR OF PARLAKIMEDI.

Parlakimedi.

PARLAKIMEDI is the largest permanently settled estate in Ganjam District, Madras, lying in the west of the district. Rajas of Parlakimedi claim descent from the Gajpati kings Orissa. The whole Kimedi country consisting of the present *zamindaris* of Parlakimedi, Peddakimedi, and Chinnakimedi, was under one ruler until 1607 A.D.; but in that year the Kimedi Raja allotted Peddakimedi and Chinnakimedi to his younger son, whose descendants subsequently divided them into the two existing *zamindaris* of those names. The British first came into contact with the Parlakimedi family in 1768 A.D., when Colonel Peach led a detachment against Narayan Deo, the then *zamindar*, and defeated him at Jalmur. In 1799 A.D., the Company temporarily assumed control of the estate for breach of an engagement. It was afterwards restored to the family but it was the scene of continued disturbances for many years.

The estate was under the management of the Court of Wards from 1830 to 1890 A.D., owing to the incapacity of two successive Rajas. During that period considerable improvement was effected in its condition, and the income rose from Rs. 1,40,000 to Rs. 3,86,000, and the cash balance in 1890 A.D., amounted to nearly 30 lakhs. The Raja who then succeeded has recently died, and the estate is again under the management of the Court of Wards.

Parlakimedi is singularly favoured by nature, the soil being fertile and irrigation available from the Vamsadhara and Mehendratana rivers, a channel from the latter and many large tanks.

The town stands in the midst of picturesque scenery, being situated in an amphitheatre of hills with beautiful tanks adjoining it. The Raja has constructed a light railway, 25 miles in length, at a cost of 7 lakhs of rupees from Naupada to Parlakimedi. This is the first work of the kind undertaken by a private individual in Southern India.

The area of the zamindari estate is 614 square miles with a population of 256,414 and the name of the present Zamindar is Raja Shri Krishna Chandra Gajapati Narayana Devu.



RAJA VENKATA KUMARA MAHIPATI SURYA RAO
ZAMINDAR OF PITHAPURAM

Pithapuram.

PITHAPURAM is a permanently settled *zamindari* estate situated in the Godavari District, Madras Presidency. The estate was originally granted to Ravu Ramchandra Rayanam in 1647 A.D. by the Nizamshahi Kings. The Rayanam was of the Velama caste, and from him the family still holding the estate traces its descent. As a special mark of favour he was allowed to repair and occupy the fort at Pithapuram, which henceforward became the residence of the family,

During the unsettled times and the apparent decline of Mahommedan power in the Deccan, the zamindar of Pithapuram like his neighbours took advantage of the position and withheld the *peshkesh* or tribute. In 1724 A.D. Asaf Jah, Nizam-ul-mulk, and his commander, Rustam Khan, brought all the *zamindari* estates including that of Pithapuram under direct management. After Rustam Khan's death his successors pursued the same policy, but about 1742 A.D. the estates were restored to the families of the former owners.

Pithapuram took little part in the conflict between the French and the English. In 1802 A.D., the estate was permanently settled, when the revenue was estimated at about 4 lakhs and a *peshkesh* 2.6 lakhs was imposed. Upto 1827 A.D., considerable additions were made. In that year owing to the minority of the holder, it came under the Court of Wards. About the year 1845 A.D., it was handed over free of all encumbrances to the proprietor. The estate is at present again under the management of the Court of Wards owing to the minority of the present holder R.V.K.M. Surya Rao.

The zamindari is very fertile. Much of it is watered by the Godavari irrigation system, while the remainder is supplied by the small river Yeleru and by tanks. The estate extends over an area of 383 square miles containing 168 villages with a population of 2,80,317. The income of the estate is about 10 lakhs of Rupees and the annual *peshkesh* payable to the British Government is Rs. 2,64,218. Among the places of importance in the zamindari are the well-known sea-port town of Coconada and the capital itself. The latter possesses some *pouranic* interest on account of its two ancient Hindoo temples. In front of one of these, there is a pond of Pada Gaya, which is considered very sacred and visited by pilgrims from Benaras and Gaya.

The name of the present zamindar of Pithapuram is Raja Venkata Kumara Mahipati Surya Rao who is a minor.



SITUPATI RAJA OF RAMNAD

Ramnad.

RAMNAD is a permanently settled zamindari estate in the south and east of Madura District, Madras. Its chiefs are the titular heads of the numerous caste of the Maravans, and bear the title of Setupati, or "lord of the causeway." This causeway is the ridge of rock which used to connect the tongue of the main-land running out into the gulf of Manaar with the island of Pamban. Pamban island contains the holy temple of Rameshwaram; and tradition has it that when Rama crossed to the island from Ceylon by way of Adam's Bridge and founded the temple as a thank-offering for his victory over Ravana, he also appointed the Setupati to protect the pilgrims who should traverse the causeway to visit it. The chiefs of Ramnad appear to have undoubtedly borne the title as far back as the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries: and in the early years of the seventeenth century, it was formally conferred by one of the Naik Kings of Madura on the head of the Maravans, from whom the present owners of the estate are descended.

Of the early chiefs, Raghunath Kilavan (1673-1708) is perhaps the best known. It was he who moved the capital of the country from Pogalur, the ancient family seat, to its present site 10 miles further east at Ramnad, which he fortified. About 1725 A.D. a usurper became Setupati; but he treated his vassals so harshly that one of them joined the legitimate heir, and, with the help of the Raja of Tanjore, attacked and defeated him. The country was divided by the victors, the Raja of Tanjore annexing that part of it which lay north of the Pambar river. The rebellious vassal took the more valuable two-fifths of the remainder and founded there the line of the present zamindars of Sivaganga, while the other three-fifths, the present Ramnad estates, went to the lawful heir. Throughout the Carnatic wars the troops of Ramnad frequently figure on one side or the other.

The estate was formed into a zamindari in 1803 A.D. and a permanent *sanad* was granted to the holder by the British Government. The last Raja of Ramnad succeeded in 1873 A.D. as a minor, and the estate was accordingly managed for the next sixteen years by the Court of Wards. During this period $8\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs were spent on repairs to irrigation works, 14 lakhs of debt was cleared off, and the estate was handed over to its owner in 1888 A.D. in good order, with a revenue which has been increased from 5 to 9 lakhs and with a cash balance $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

The area of Ramnad is 2,104 square miles with a population of 7,23,886. The *peshkesh* payable to the Government by the estate is $3\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs.



RAJA SHRIMANT VENKAT RAO SAHIB HINDURAO GHORAPADE
MAMLIKAT MADAR SENAPATEE OF SANDUR

Sandur.

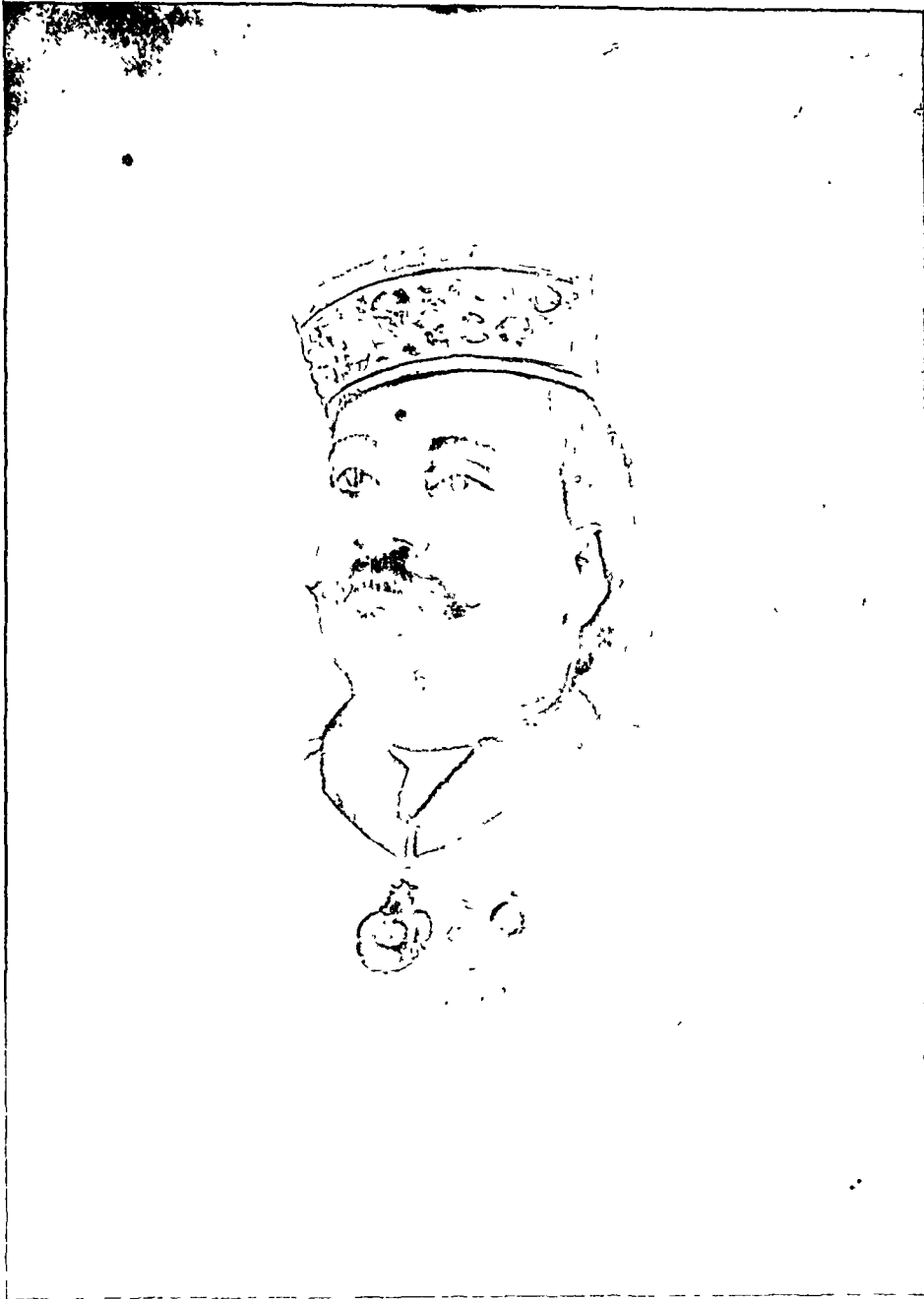
SANDUR is a Maratha State in direct political relations with the Governor of Madras. It is surrounded by the District of Bellary, the Collector of which is the Political Agent. Sandur has an interesting history. In 1728 A.D. it was seized by an ancestor of the present Raja, a Maratha named Siddoji Rao. He belonged to a family called the Ghorpades, which name was earned, according to tradition, by one of them who scaled precipitous fort by clinging to *iguana* (*ghorpad*) which was crawling up on it. Siddoji Rao's grandfather had been in the service of the Sultan of Bijapur, and his three sons joined in the Maratha revolt against the king and prospered in consequence. The second of them, Siddoji's father, earned the hereditary titles of "Hindu Rao" and "Memalikat-Madar" (Centre of the State), which are still used by the Rajas of Sandur. Siddoji's eldest son was the famous Morari Rao of Gooty, who followed his father as ruler of the State. In the campaign of 1775-6 A.D. Haider Ali, after getting possession of Bellary, took Gooty from him, and sent him to Kabbaladurga hill in Mysore where he died soon afterwards. Haider annexed the whole territory, including Sandur and began the fort of Krishnanagar which is still standing there. It was finished and garrisoned by his son Tipu.

Morari Rao had two sons, but they both died in childhood; and he adopted a distant cousin named Siva Rao, who fell about 1785 A.D. in a vain attempt to turn Tipu's troops out of Sandur, and was succeeded by his son Siddoji, then two years old. Siddoji was put under the guardian-ship of his uncle Venkata Rao, who in 1790 A.D. on his ward's behalf, attacked and drove out Tipu's garrison, and gained possession of the place. After the peace with Tipu in 1792 A.D. the Ghorpades were allowed to retain Sandur as part of the ancient inheritance of the family, but none of them ventured to reside there as long as Tipu was alive. Siddoji died in 1796, A.D. aged thirteen, and his widow adopted a cousin called Siva Rao. On the death of Tipu at the fall of Seringapatam in 1799 A.D., Siva Rao went with Venkata Rao to Sandur, and he was *jagirdar* there when Bellary District was ceded to the Company.

In 1826 A.D. a formal sanad (title-deed) for the State was granted to Siva Rao by the Madras Government. He died in 1840 A.D. and was followed by his nephew Venkata Rao, whom he had adopted. The latter died in 1861 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Siva Sanmukh Rao. In 1876 A.D. he received the title of Raja as an hereditary distinction. At his death two years later, his brother Ramchandra Vitthal Rao succeeded, who was made a C.I.E. in July 1892 A.D., but died in the same year. Ramchandra's son, the present Raja, has succeeded to the gadi.

The State is 161 square miles in area, contains 20 villages, and has a population of 11,200 of whom between one-third and one-half live in Sandur town. Sandur is famous for the temple of Kumarswami which is picturesquely situated 7 miles south of Sandur town. The annual income of the State is more than Rs. 50,000.

The present Raja of Sandur is Raja Shrimant Venkat Rao Sahib, Hindu Rao Ghorpade.



UMDE RAJAH RAJE SIR MAHARAJA VELUGATI SHRI RAJA GOPAL-KRISHNA
YECHENDRA BAHADUR, K C I E
RAJA OF VENKATGIRI.

Venkatagiri.

VENKATAGIRI is an ancient *zamindari* estate situated in the Nellore District of the Madras Presidency. The origin of the zamindari is traced to one Bhetala Naidu who rose to distinction at the court of the kings of Warrangal and received the title of "*Kakateya Rajapujitha*" (one respected by Kakateya Rajah.), about the year 1600 A.D. one of the members of the family was commissioned by the Warrangal Raja to subdue Jagga Raju, who was holding the fort at Venkatagiri. Being successful, he received the fort, which thenceforth became, and still is, the head-quarters of the family. The representatives of the family were renowned as warriors and great military chieftains under the Vijayanagar kings. On the overthrow of the Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar they accepted the suzerainty of the Delhi Emperors and by rendering valuable services to them gained their favours. The Emperor Aurangzebe bestowed on Sarvang Kumar Achama Naidu, the title of "Shadhazari Mansabdar" and granted to him 13 *talugs* in four *Cirkars* or districts including Venkatagiri, yielding an annual *Kist* (revenue) of 25 lakhs of rupees. His son, Bangaru Naidu, rendered great assistance to the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Nawab of Arcot. The latter respected him highly and interdicted a rival chief using a white flag which is the peculiar symbol of the Venkatagiri house.

Kumar Achama Naidu (of the twentyfifth generation) who succeeded to the estate of his father was courted by Haider Ali to assist him against the Nawab of Arcot and his allies the English, but he flatly refused to have anything to do with him, and proceeded at once to Madras with a large force to the aid of the Nawab and the English. Incensed at this, Haider Ali burnt Venkatagiri and destroyed everything. His services were appreciated by Lord Hobart, Governor of Madras. It was during the time of this *zamindar*, Kumar Yachamma Naidu, the Venkatagiri *zamindari* was permanently settled in 1802 A.D.

The present holder had the estate abdicated in his favour by his father during his life time in 1878 A.D., and was at once recognised as the Raja of Venkatagiri. He was created a K.C.I.E. in 1888 A.D., and was given the title of Maharaja as a personal distinction in 1910 A.D. He is a leading zamindar of the Madras Presidency and is respected by all. He has been twice Member of the Madras Legislative Council and has also been President of the Madras Landowners' Association.

The area of the Venkatagiri estate is 2000 square miles containing 176 villages. The *peshkesh* is Rs. 4,26,000 payable to the British Government.

The full name of the Venkatagiri Raja is Umde Rajah Raje Sir Maharaja Velugati Sri Raja Gopal-Krishna Yechendra Bahadur Garu, K. C. I. E., Maharaja of Venkatagiri, who resides at Venkatagiri.



THE HON MIRZA RAJA SHRI PUSAPATI VIZIARAM GAJPATI RAZ MANYA SULTAN BAHADUR
GARU OF VIZAYANAGARAM

Vizayanagram.

VIZAYANAGRAM is one of the most important estates in the Madras Presidency, occupying the greater part of the lowland area of the District of Vizagapatam. The family claims descent from Madhava Varma, who led a Rajput colony into the Krishna Valley in A.D. 591, and whose descendants held important posts at the court of Golconda. In 1652 A.D. one of these, Pusapati Madhavavarma, entered Vizagapatam where he and his successors down to the celebrated Vizarama Raz, the friend of Bussy, gradually added one tract of country to another, till they became the most powerful family in the Northern Circars. Pedda Vizarama Raz, so called to distinguish him from his ill-fated grandson, who fell at Padmanabham in 1794 A.D. succeeded his father about 1710 A.D. In 1712 A.D. he removed his capital from Potnur to Vizianagram, which he called after his own name. For several years he occupied himself in building a fort there, and in gradually extending his dominions. In 1754 A.D. he formed an alliance with Jafar Ali Khan, the Faujdar of Chicacole, but deserted him for the more profitable friendship of the French under Bussy, by whose assistance he was enabled in 1757 A.D. to compass the death of his hereditary enemy, the *zamindar* of Bobbili, and to seize his capital. His triumph was, however, short-lived; for three nights after the storming of that fort, Vizarama Raz was assassinated in his tent by four followers of his old foe. His successor Ananda Raz, smarting under some slight, reversed the policy of his father, and marching on Vizagapatam, at that time in the hands of a French garrison, captured it and made it over to the English (1758 A.D.) On the arrival of Colonel Forde's column from Bengal to attack the French, Ananda Raz accompanied it on its victorious march on Rajahmundry and Masulipatam. On the return journey he died, and was succeeded by a minor adopted son, Vizarama Raz, who for many years was entirely in the hands of his half-brother, Sita Ram Raz a clever and grasping character.

Sita Ram proved himself a successful administrator paying his *peshkesh* of 3 lakhs to the Company with punctuality, and making capital of his loyalty so as to prove, among other advantages, the assistance of British troops for the suppression of his turbulent hill feudatories. By these means the Pusapatis attained yet further power and prestige; but afterwards the absolute authority of Sita Ram became irksome to the Raja and a quarrel arose between the two brothers which resulted in the retirement of Sita Ram at Madras in 1793 A.D. The Raja Vizaram Raz proved incapable of the task of governing and fell into heavy arrears of his *peshkesh*. His estate was therefore sequestrated by the British Government and he was directed to reside at Masulipatam on a fixed allowance. He felt that honour left him no other alternative but to collect his force and to regain his own authority. This conduct of the Raja resulted in the battle of Padmanabham on July 10, 1794 A.D. in which the Raja and many of his principal followers were slain. The death of Vizarama Raz marks a turning point in the fortunes of the family.

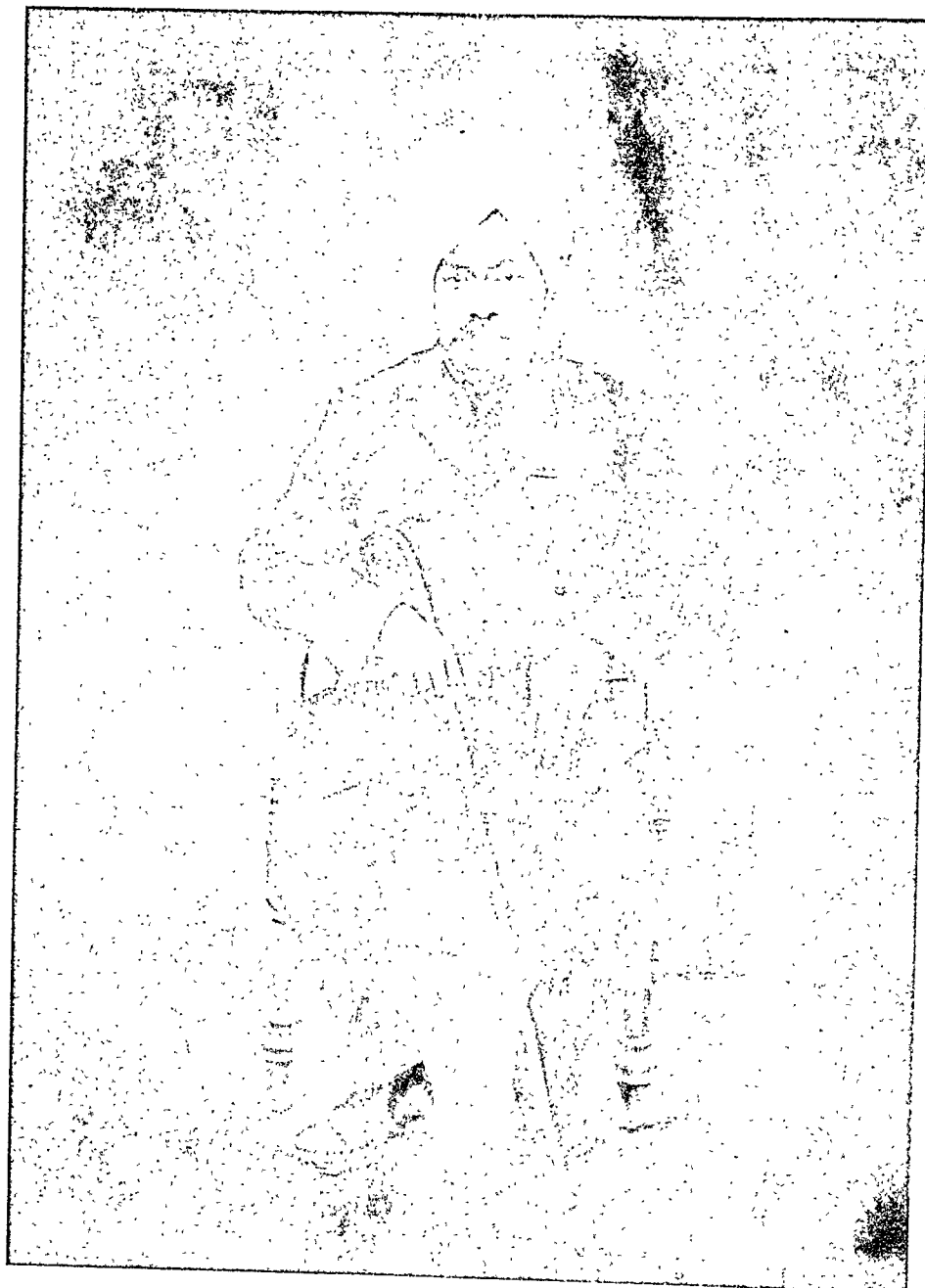
His son, Narayan Gajapati Raz, surrendered to the British and remained at Benaras till his death in 1845 A.D. having left his estate in the charge of the Government for about half the period of his rule. His successor, Vizarama Gajapati Raz, continued this arrangement for seven years but in 1852 A.D. he took over the manage-

THE IMPERIAL DURBAR ALBUM.

ment himself. Viziaram Raz and his son and successor, Ananda Raz, proved themselves worthy of their position. Both were members of the Viceroy's Council, and received high honours from the Crown; Viziaram Raz being made a Maharaja and a K.C.S.I. and Anand Raz a Maharaja and a G.C.I.E. The latter died in 1897 A.D. and was succeeded by Maharaja Pusapati Viziaram Gajpati Raz, who is the present Raja of Vizayanagram. He attained majority in 1904 A.D. and since then he is managing his large estate with great ability. He is the representative of the zamindars on the Madras Legislative Council.

The area of the Vizianagram estate is 3000 square miles having 8,44,168 population. The annual income is about 20 lakhs.

PUNJAB.



RANA DALIP SINGH C. I. E.
RANA OF BAGHAT

Baghat.

BAGHAT is one of the Simla Hill States in the Punjab. The rulers of this State, who are called Ranas of Baghat, claim their descent from a Rajput family of Dharanagri probably Dhar in Central India. In 1805 A.D. the Rana, being in alliance with the Bilaspur State, was allowed to retain his territory by the Gurakhas, but in 1815 A.D. five-eighths of it was confiscated and made over to Patiala. In 1839 A.D. the state lapsed in default of a direct heir; but in 1842 A.D. it was restored to a brother of the late Rana, only to escheat again in 1849 A.D. In 1860 A.D., however, it was once more restored, and Rana Dalip Singh succeeded in 1862 A.D. He has proved himself a public spirited chief and received the title of C. I. E., from the paramount power. The sites for the cantonments of Kasauli and Solon were granted by the State for which the tribute has been reduced as compensation. It was remitted altogether in 1906 A.D., in connection with arrangements concluded with the Rana for the supply of water to the Sabathu Cantonment.

The area of the State is 36 square miles with a population of 9490. The revenue of the State is Rs. 40,000.

The name of the present ruler is Rana Dalip Singh C. I. E.



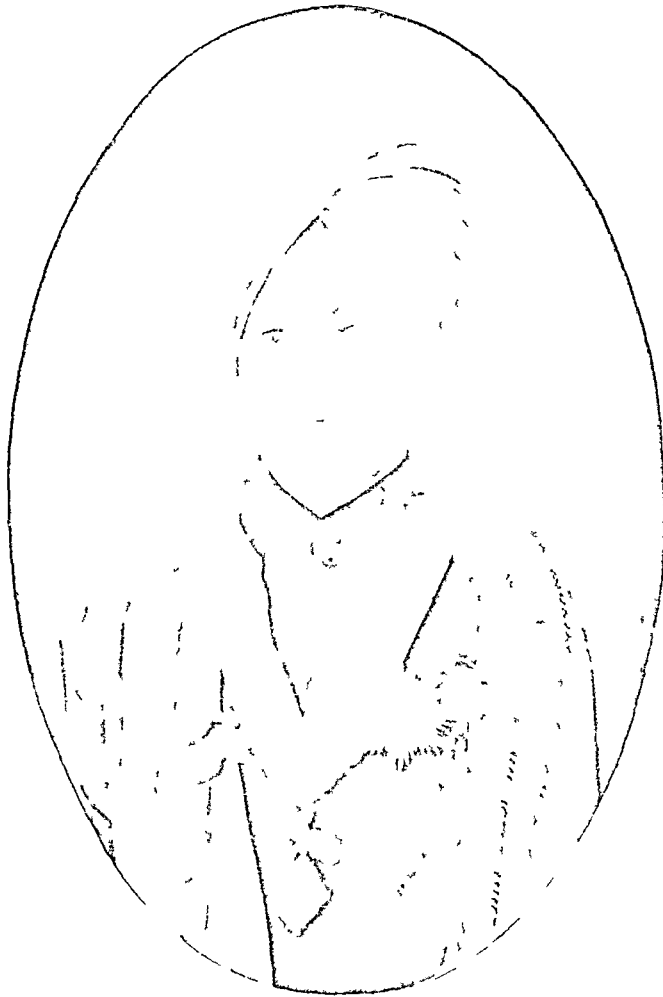
HIS HIGHNESS RAJA BIJE CHAND C. S. I.
RAJA OF BILASPUR.

Bilaspur.

BILASPUR is one of the Simla Hill States of the Punjab. Its ruler Raja Mahachand professed obedience and submission to the British Government and became a dependent of the Hon'ble Company at the beginning of the nineteenth century when the Gurakhas were driven out by the British in 1815 A.D. The Raja was given a sanad in 1815 A.D. and reinstated in his possessions of the lands of his ancient territory Kahlur. In 1847 A.D. when the Punjab was conquered Raja Jagatchand was confirmed in his possession of the State including part of a tract on the right bank of the Sutlej, which he had previously held on payment of tribute to the Sikhs. The British Government waived its right to tribute, but required the Raja to abolish transit duties in his dominions. About 1865 A.D. the pargana of Bassi Bachertu was given up to the Raja, on condition of an annual payment of Rs. 8,000 to the British Government. In acknowledgement of his services during the Mutiny, the Raja received a dress of honour of the value of Rs. 5000 and a salute of 7 guns, since increased to 11 guns. Bijechand, the present Raja, succeeded in 1889 A.D.; but in 1903-4 A.D. he was deprived for a time, of his administrative powers, and the State is now managed by a British official. The military force of the state consists of 11 cavalry, 187 infantry (including gunners and police), and two field guns.

The area of the State is of 448 square miles with a population 92,525. The revenue is about Rs 1,90,000.

The name of the Raja is His Highness Raja Bijechand who enjoys the hereditary title of Raja.



HIS HIGHNESS RAJA SIR BHURI SINGH K C S I C I E
RAJA OF CHAMBA

Chamba.

CHAMBA is one of the semi-independent Hill States under the control of the Punjab Government. The Rajas of Chamba belong to the Surajvansi line of Rajputs. The founder of the dynasty was Meru who conquered the territory about 550 A.D. from the petty Ranas and founded the town of Brahmapura and made it the capital of a new State. About the year 920 A.D. Raja Sahila Varma conquered the lower Ravi Valley and transferred the seat of Government from Brahmapura to the new capital which he named 'Champa' after his daughter Champavati. About the year 1559 A.D. Raja Pratab Singh who was a contemporary with Akabar, was the ruler of Chamba. It was for the first time that the title 'Singh' first appeared with the name of the Rajas. During his rule Chamba became a tributary to the Mughal Empire. During the time of the Sikh ascendancy in the Punjab the Chamba Rajas seem to have become tributary to them. After the conclusion of the first Sikh War in 1846 A.D. the British Government by a treaty transferred to Maharaja Gulab Singh all the hilly and mountainous country between the Ravi and the Indus including Chamba. This treaty was shortly after modified and Chamba was rescued from Gulab Singh and was given to Raja Sri Singh, subject to payment of an annual tribute of Rs. 12,000. A sanad dated 6th April 1848 A.D. was granted to Raja Sri Singh conferring the territory of Chamba upon him, and providing that, failing male heirs of his own body, the succession should devolve on his elder surviving brother.

Raja Sri Singh died childless and was succeeded by his brother Rajah Gopal Singh, who abdicated in favour of his eldest son, Sham Singh, then a boy of seven. Raja Sham Singh after a rule extending over 30 years abdicated in favour of his brother Raja Bhuri Singh, the present Raja of Chamba, who on May 12th, 1904 A.D. was with all due ceremony installed by Sir Charles Rivaz K. C. S. I., Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab. His accession to the *gadi* was thus an event of deep significance. Highly cultured and of mature judgement, with wide administrative experience and intimate knowledge of the State and its needs, Rajah Bhuri Singh entered on a career of great promise as a ruling Chief, with every happy augury of prosperity and success.

On first January 1906 A.D. His Highness the Raja received from the King-Emperor the distinction of K. C. S. I., and this signal mark of favour gave keen gratification to his subjects.

The area of the State is 3216 square miles with a population 1,35,989.

His Highness Raja Bhuri Singh K. C. S. I., C. I. E., the Raja of Chamba, is entitled to a salute of 11 guns.



HIS HIGHNESS RAJA BRIJ INDAR SINGH BAHADUR.
RAJA OF FARIDKOT.

Faridkot.

FARIDKOT is a native State in the Punjab, under the political control of the Commissioner of the Jullundur Division. The ruling family belongs to the Sidhu-Barar clan of the Jats, and are descended from the same stock as the Phulkian houses. Their occupation of Faridkot and Kot Kapura dates from the time of Akbar, though quarrels with the surrounding Sikh States and internal dissensions have greatly reduced the patrimony. Throughout the Sikh wars Raja Pahar Singh loyally assisted the British, and was rewarded by a grant of half the territory confiscated in 1846 A.D. from the Raja of Nabha, while his ancestral possession of Kot Kapura, which had been wrested from Faridkot in 1808 A.D., was restored to him. During the Mutiny of 1857 A.D. his son, Wazir Singh, who succeeded in 1849 A.D. rendered active assistance to the British and was suitably rewarded.

The present Chief, High Highness Raja Brijindar Singh Bahadur, being a minor of 16 years, studies at the Aitchison Chiefs College, Lahore, under the guidance of the Punjab Government and the guardianship of Sardar Bahadur Sardar Dayal Singh Man, President of the Council of Regency. His Highness is considered one of the best students in all respects and signs for the future are propitious. In his minority the administration of the State is being carried on by the Council of Regency with the aforesaid President, who has effected numerous useful administrative and social reforms. His Highness's younger brother, Kanwar Shibindar Singh, too, reads at the Aitchison Chiefs College, Lahore, under the same arrangement.

The area of the State is 642 square miles with a population of 1,30,294. The net annual revenue amounts to Rs. 3,89,985, while the income from all sources is Rs. 12,00,000 in round figures.

His Highness Raja Brij Indar Singh Bahadur is entitled to a salut  of 11 guns.



HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SIR RANBIR SINGH, K. C. S. I.

MAHARAJA OF JIND.

Jind.

JIND is one of the Phulkian States in the Punjab. The present capital of which is Sangrur. The founder of the State is one Gajapat Singh who is descended from Sukh chain, a grandson of Phul, the ancestor of all the Phulkian families. Gajpat Singh was an adventurous man who conquered the imperial parganas of Jind and Safidon and overran Panipat and Karnal in 1755 A.D. On the partition of the three Phulkian States in 1763 A.D., Jind became an independent principality. In 1766 A.D. Gajapat Singh made Jind town his capital. Nevertheless he remained a vassal of the Delhi Empire and continued to pay tribute, obtaining in return in 1772 A.D. an imperial *farman* which gave him the title of Raja. Gajapat Singh secured by conquest some territories including Sangrur from Nabha State in 1774 A.D. He died in 1789 A.D. and was succeeded by his two sons Bhag Singh, who inherited the title of Raja with Jind and Safidon; and Bhup Singh who obtained Badru Khan.

Raja Bhag Singh shrewdly held aloof from the combination against the British and assisted Lord Lake in his pursuit of Jaswant Rao Holkar in 1805 A.D. He was also sent as an envoy to Maharaja Ranjit Singh with some political mission which he performed with great skill and success. Holkar was compelled to leave the Punjab, and Bhag Singh received as his reward the pargana Bawana to the south-west of Punjab. He died in 1819 A.D. after ruling 36 years, and was succeeded by his son Fateh Singh who died in 1822 A.D. Troublous times followed, and Sangat Singh, son of Fateh Singh, who was obliged for a period to desert his capital. He died childless in 1834 A.D. and the choice of succession fell upon Sarup Singh, a second cousin of the deceased Raja who ruled over the Jind State till his death 1864 A.D. His loyalty and devotion to the paramount power were exemplary and his timely help to the British was always very useful. In the crisis of 1857 A.D. he rendered most valuable assistance to the British Government for which he received a fitting reward in the grant of the Dadri territory covering nearly 600 square miles. This territory yields a revenue of over two lakhs. He also received 13 villages, assessed at Rs. 1,33,000, in the Kularan *pargana*, close to Sangrur, where the Raja now has his capital, and a house at Delhi valued at Rs. 6,000. His salute was raised to 11 guns; and, like the other Phulkian chiefs, he received a *sanad* granting him the right of adoption in case of the failure of of natural heirs, and legalizing the appointment of a successor by the two other Phulkian chiefs, in concert with the Political Agent, in the event of the Raja dying without male issue and without having adopted a successor.

Raja Sarup Singh died in 1864 A.D. He was succeeded by his son, Raghubir Singh, who was in every way worthy of his father. The Raja rendered prompt assistance to the British Government on the occasion of the Kuka outbreak in 1872 A.D. and when the second Afghan War broke out in 1878 A.D. the British Government accepted his offer of a contingent which rendered useful service on the line of communications. As a reward, the honorary title of Raja-i-Rajgan was conferred on the Raja of Jind in perpetuity. Raja Raghubir Singh was indefatigable in his efforts to promote the prosperity, material and otherwise, of his people. He rebuilt the town of Sangrur modelling it largely on Jaipur, and made many improvements at Jind, Dadri,

THE IMPERIAL DURBAR ALBUM.

and Safidon. It is largely owing to his efforts that Jind is to day the first of the Phulkian States as regards artistic manufactures. He died in 1887 A.D. leaving a grandson Ranbir Singh, to succeed him.

His Highness Raja-i-Rajgan Raja Sir Ranbir Singh Bahadur was born in 1879 A.D. He came to the *gadi* in 1887 A.D. and was given full powers in 1899 A.D. He takes keen interest in the administration of his state and has introduced several new reforms and improved almost all the departments of the State. His loyalty to the British throne is in keeping with the deeds of his ancestors and has earned for him high honours from the Government.

The area of the Jind State is 1259 square miles with a population 2,71,722. The total revenue of the State is Rs. 16,04,000.

The ruler of Jind, His Highness Farzand-i-Dilband Rasikh-ul-Itikad Daulat-i-Inglishia Raja-i-Rajgan Raja Sir Ranbir Singh Bahadur, K.C.S.I. is entitled to a salute of 11 guns.



H H RANA BAGAT CHAND

RANA OF JUBBAL

Jubbal.

JUBBAL is one of the Simla Hill States. Its ruler is by caste a Rathoda Rajput, and traces his descent from Maharaj Brat. Jubbal was originally tributary to Sirmur but after the Gurkha War, it became independent. On the expulsion of the Gurkhas, the whole of the Hill territory came into the possession of the British Government, and a *sanad* was granted to Rana Purana Chand in 1815 A.D. The Rana misgoverned the state, and in 1832 A.D., abdicated in favour of the British Government, but soon, however, repented, and in 1840 A.D. the State was restored to him. His grandson, Padam Chand, ruled the State with ability from 1877 A.D. till his death in 1898 A.D., and was succeeded by Gyan Chand, who died 1911 A.D. The Present ruler Rana Bagat Chand, succeeded to the *gadi* in April, 1911 A.D.

The area of the State is 288 square miles containing 276 villages, including Deorha, its capital, and has a population of 23,627. It has an estimated revenue of nearly Rs. 1,52,000.



SIRDAR RANJIT SINGH.
CHIEF OF KALSIA.

Kalsia.

KALSIA is a Cis-Sutlej State to the north-east of Ambala District, and derives its name from the village of Kalsian in the Lahore District, which is the birth place of Sardar Gurbaksh Singh, founder of the State. Sardar Gurbaksh Singh was a Jat by caste who joined the *Kroria misla* or confederacy of the Sikhs. His son Jodh Singh, a man of ability and prowess, effected considerable conquests on both sides of the Sutlej, but eventually the family lost all those north of the river. When the Cis-Sutlej States came under the British protection, Sardar Jodh Singh, after some hesitation, followed the general example, and was recognised by the British Government as chief of Kalsia. He was followed by Sardar Sobha Singh who died in 1858 A.D. and his son, Luhna Singh, succeeded him. He received a *sanad* conferring on him the right of adoption.

The present chief Sirdar Ranjit Singh is a minor, and the State is managed by a Council of Regency consisting of Sirdar Sant Singh E.A.C. President and two other Members under the political supervision of the Commissioner, Delhi Division.

The area of the State is 176 square miles with a population of 55,915 souls. The annual income is Rs. 2,21,385. The capital of the State is Chachravli, twelve miles to south of Gagadhri station of the N. W. Railway.



H. H. MAHARAJA SIR JAGATJIT SINGH, G.C.S.I.

MAHARAJA OF KAPURTHALA

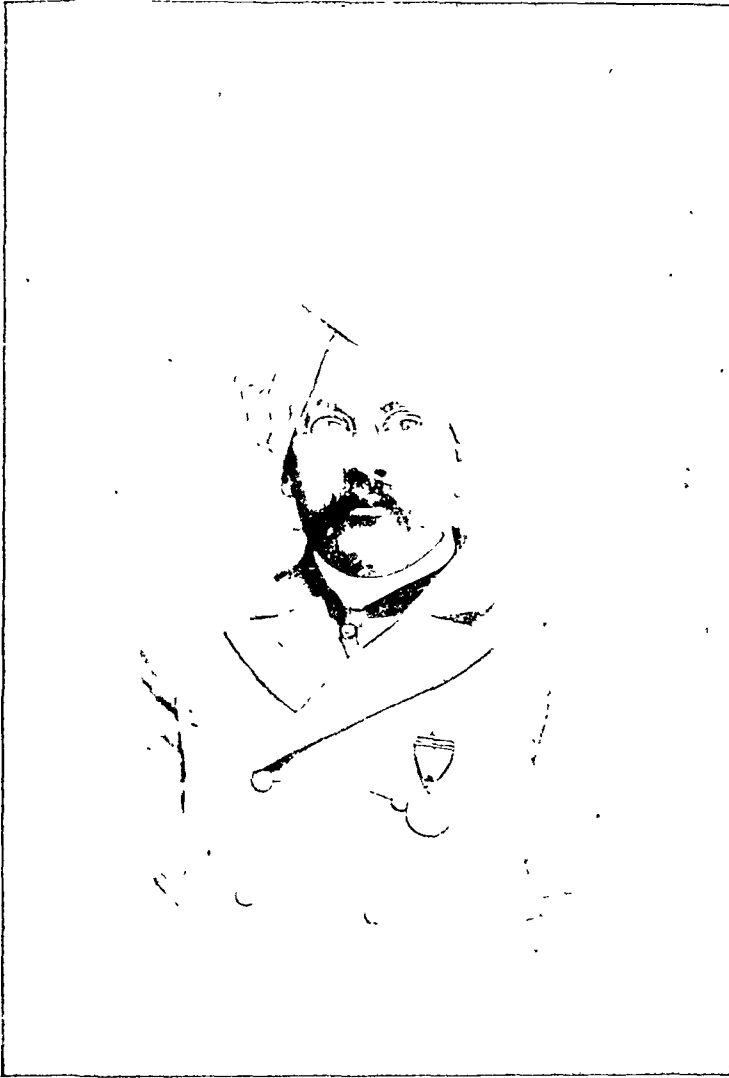
Kapurthala.

KAPURTHALA is a Sikh State in the Punjab, under the political control of the Commissioner of Jullundur Division. The ruling family of Kapurthala claim descent from Rana Kapur, a semi-mythical member of the Rajput house of Jaisalmer who is said to have left his home and founded Kapurthala 900 years ago. The ancestors of the Rajas of Kapurthala come from Ahalu, a village in the Bari Doab, from which they take the name of 'Ahaluvalia.' When the Jullundur Doab came under the dominion of the British Government in 1846 A.D. the estates north of the Sutlej were maintained in the independent possession of the Ahaluvalia chieftain, conditional on his paying a commutation in cash for the service engagements by which he had previously been bound to Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Bari Doab estates have been released to the head of the house in perpetuity, the civil and police jurisdiction remaining in the hands of the British authorities. In 1849 A.D. Sardar Nihal Singh was created a Raja. He died in September, 1852 A.D. and was succeeded by his son, Randhir Singh. During the mutiny in 1857 A.D. the forces of Randhir Singh, who never hesitated or wavered in their loyalty, strengthened the British hold upon the Jullundur Doab; and afterwards, in 1858 A.D., the chief led a contingent to Oudh, which did good service in the field. He was well rewarded; and among other concessions, obtained the grant in perpetuity of the estates in Oudh, which have an area of 700 square miles, and yield at present a gross revenue of about 13·5 lakhs. In these estates the Raja exercises no ruling powers though in Oudh he is, to mark his superiority over the ordinary *talukdars*, addressed as Raja-i-Rajagan. This title was made applicable to the Raja in Oudh only, and not in the Punjab. Raja Randhir Singh died in 1870 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Raja Kharrak Singh. The present Raja Jagatjit Singh, son of Kharrak Singh, succeeded in September, 1877 A.D., attaining his majority in 1890 A.D.

H. H. Raja-i-Rajgan Raja Sir Jagatjit Singh K. C. S. I. was invested with the full powers of administration in November 1890 A.D. His Highness is a great traveller, and besides having paid many visits to England, has visited nearly every country in Europe, as well as America, China, Japan and Java, and has published a very interesting account of his travels. He is a patron of learning and maintains a well-equipped higher grade College in his capital.

The area of the Kapurthala State is 652 square miles with a population of 314,341. The gross revenue of the State is Rs. 27,17,000.

The Raja of the Kapurthala stands in order of precedence among the ruling chiefs of the Punjab, and is entitled to a salute of 11 guns and a return visit from the Viceroy.

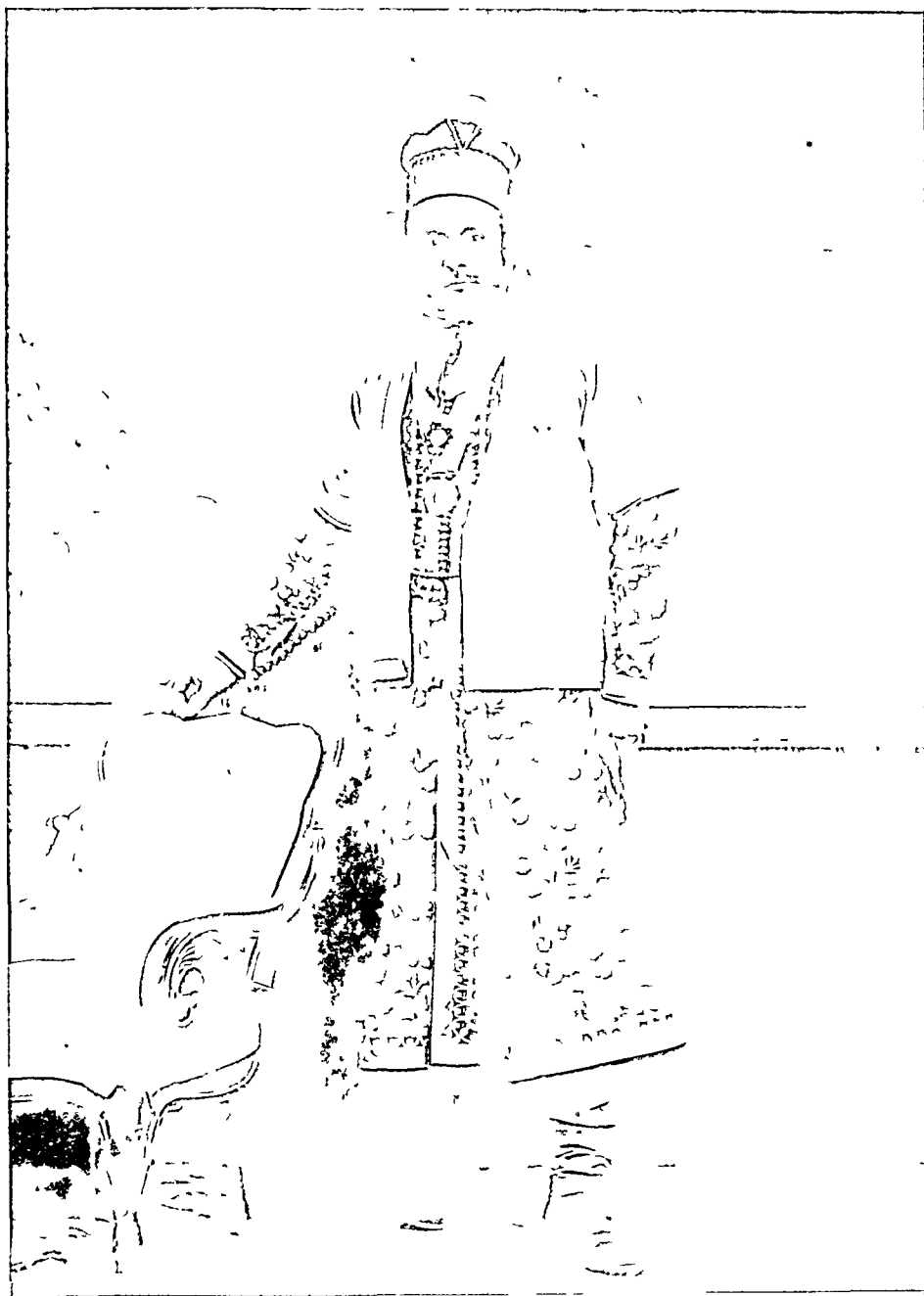


H. H. RAJA BAHADUR BEJOY SEN.
RAJA OF KEONTHAL.

Keonthal.

KEONTHAL is one of the Simla Hill States in the Punjab. The present Raja is Bejoy Sen, a Rajput by caste, who succeeded his father Balbir Sen in 1901 A.D. The Chief of Keonthal was formerly styled Rana, but was raised by the British Government to the higher rank of Raja in 1857 A.D. After the Gurakha War a portion of the territory of Keonthal, which had been occupied by the Gurkhas, was sold to the Maharaja of Patiala. In consideration of this, no tribute is paid by the Keonthal Raja for the remainder of his State, which was restored to him by *sanad* in 1815 A.D. on the expulsion of the Gurkhas from the country. The Raja holds another *sanad*, dated September, 1815 A.D. conferring on him and his heirs forever paramount authority over the petty states of Theog, Koti, Ghund, and Madhan, the chiefs of which with their descendants are bound to regard the chief of Keonthal as their liege, and to pay him tribute. Ratesh also is a fief of Keonthal. A third *sanad* was granted to the Raja, conferring Punnar on him and his heirs. It is dated 1823 A.D. though the transfer was authorized in 1816 A.D. The reason given for this measure were the isolated position of Punnar, the turbulent character of its inhabitants, the indisposition of Government to extend its territories in the hills, and a desire to benefit Keonthal.

The area of the State is 116 square miles with a population 24,750. The annual income is Rs. 1,00,000.



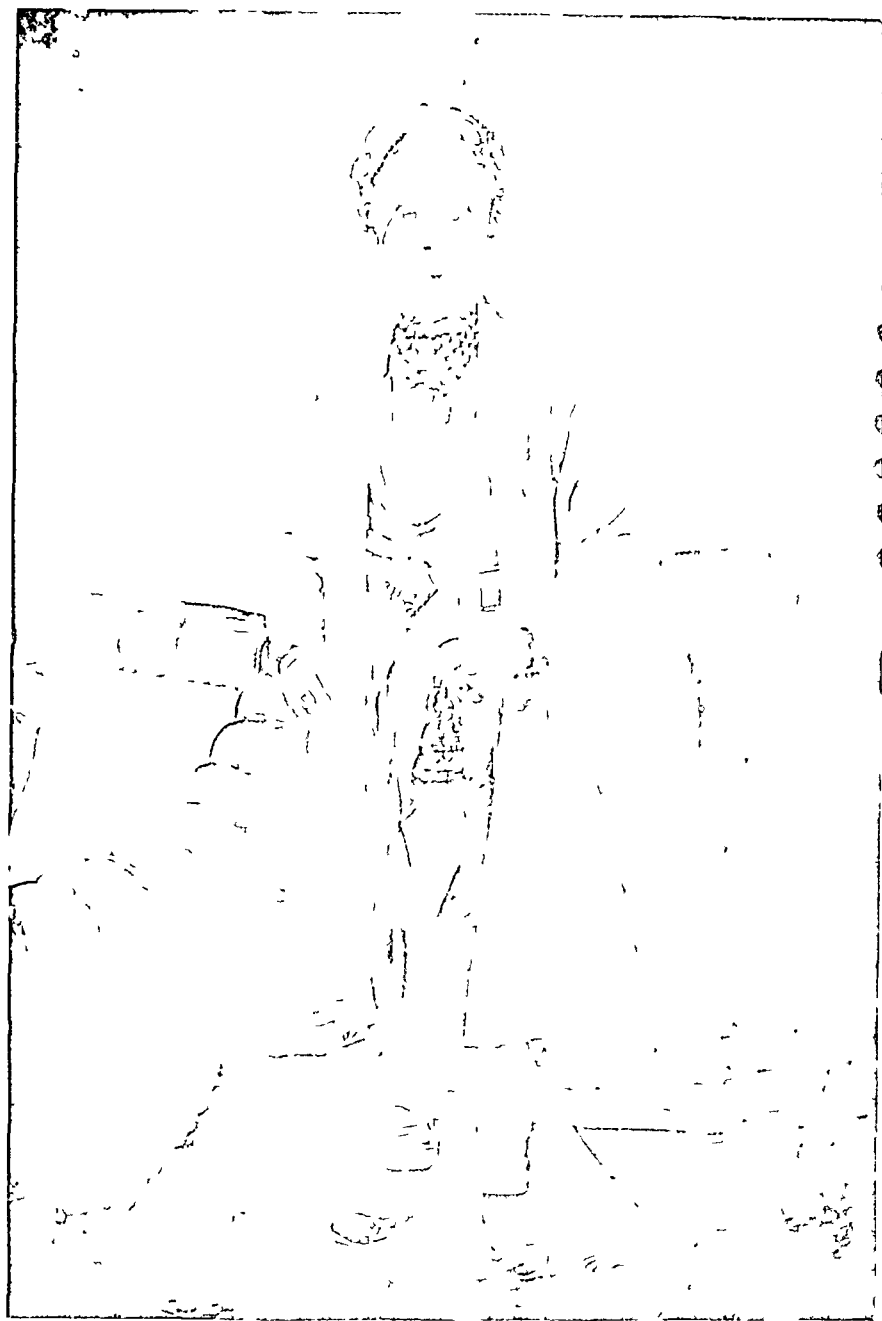
H H FAKHRUDDAULAH NAWAB SIR AMIRUDDIN AHMED KHAN BAHADUR, K C I E
Nawab of LOHARU

Loharu.

LOHARU is a Native State in the Punjab, under the political control of the Commissioner of the Delhi Division. The founder of the State was Ahmad Baksh Khan, a Mughal, who was employed by the Raja of Alwar in negotiations with Lord Lake in 1803 A.D. In recognition of his services, he received Loharu in perpetuity from the Raja, and the pargana of Firozpur, now in Gurgaon District, from Lord Lake on condition of fidelity and military service. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Shams-ud-din Khan, who was executed at Delhi for compassing the murder of Mr. Fraser, the Resident, in 1835 A.D. The Firozpur *pargana* was then confiscated, but the Loharu estate was made over to Amin-un-din Khan and Zia-ud-din Khan, the two brothers of Shams-ud-din. The two chiefs remained in Delhi during the siege in 1857 A.D. and after its fall, were placed under surveillance, but were eventually released and restored to their position. Ala-ud-din, who succeeded his father Amin-ud-din in 1869 A.D. received the title of Nawab, together with a *sanad* of adoption. The present Nawab Sir Amir-ud-din Ahmad Khan K.C.I.E. had for some years managed the State on behalf of his father, Ala-ud-din, and succeeded on the death of the latter in 1884 A.D. From 1893 to 1903 A.D. its management was in the hands of his younger brother, as the Nawab had been appointed superintendent of the Maler Kotla State. During which period the Nawab was also a member of H. E. the Viceroy's Legislative Council. He received the high honour of a K.C.I.E. in 1897 A.D. for his meritorious services.

The area of the State is 224 square miles with a population of 15,229 souls. The revenue of the State from all sources amounts to Rs. 66,000.

His Highness the Nawab Sir Amir-ud-din Ahmad Khan enjoys a salute of 9 guns granted as a personal distinction on January 1st 1903 A.D.



H H NAWAB MOHAMMED AHMED ALI KHAN BAHADUR.

NAWAB OF MALER KOTLA

Maler Kotla.

MALER Kotla State belongs to Cis-Sutlej group and is the old Mohammedan Pathan State of the Punjab. It is bounded on the north by Ludhiana and elsewhere by Patiala, except for few miles on the west, where it has some Nabha villages, the country is level, plain with sand-drifts, unbroken by a hill or a stream.

The rulers of Maler Kotla are of Afghan descent and belong to the Sherwani family which came originally from Dharabhan, near Ghazani and held positions of trust in Sirhinda province under the Delhi Emperors. The ancestor, Sheikh Sadr-ud-Din Sadra-Jahan, first came and settled at the banks of a river, then a tributary of the Sutlej, on a site between the present Maler and Kotla. He helped Bahlol Lodi in the conquest of Delhi. Bahlol married his daughter, Taj-murassa Begam, with Sadr-ud-Din and gave his daughter twelve villages and 56 *asamus*. The Sheikh founded the town of Maler in 1466 A.D.

Bayazid Khan sixth in descent from Sheikh Sadr-ud-Din, received the titles of Nawab, Amir-ul-umra and Saif-ul-mulk from the Emperor Aurangzebe with a grant of two *parganas* Qadirabad and Nangavan for his services to the Empire in 1656 A.D. In the same year he founded the Kotla city. As the Moghul Empire sunk into decay during the eighteenth century, the local chiefs became independent; but Jamal Khan the ruler of Maler Kotla kept loyal to the empire and bravely resisted the Sikh encroachments. In 1732 A.D. Jamal Khan joined the Imperial Troops of Jullundur Subha against Ala Singh of Patiala and in 1747 A.D. instructed by Ahmad Shah, despatched a force to disperse the Sikhs, gathering between the Sutlej and Sirhind, which pursued them as far as Samad. Soon after, he afforded a valuable aid to the Governor of the Durrani Emperor, left at Sirhind. This led to the series of feuds with Sikh neighbours, especially with Patiala, the most powerful of them. On Ahmad Shah's return, Adina Beg aided by the Sikhs, seized upon Ropar. Jamal Khan went to expel the insurgents from that place, while during the siege, a bullet from the enemy ended his life in 1762 A.D. He was succeeded by Bhikhan Khan, who followed his father's policy upholding the State, and obtained from Ahmed Shah, the right to coin his own name. Soon after Ahmed Shah left India for the last time, Raja Amar Singh of Patiala determined to take revenge on Bhikhan Khan. He attacked him, and seized some of his villages till at last the Maler Kotla chief found that he was unable to resist so powerful an enemy, and a treaty was negotiated, which secured peace for many years between these neighbouring States. During this peace the forces of Maler Kotla on several occasions assisted the Patiala Rajas when in difficulties; and in 1787 A.D. Raja Sahib Singh of Patiala returned these kindnesses by aiding Maler Kotla against the powerful chief of Bhadaur, who seized some of the Nawab's villages. In 1794 A.D. a religious war was proclaimed against the Mohammedans of Maler Kotla by the Bedi Sahib Singh, the lineal descendant of Baba Nanak the first and most revered of the Sikh Gurus. But ultimately he was induced to withdraw across the Sutlej by the Patiala Raja.

The State of Maler Kotla kept friendly terms with the British since 1803 A.D. and helped General Lake against the Marathas, Sindhia and Holkar. In 1809 A.D. British protection was formally extended to Maler Kotla and ever since the rulers of

THE IMPERIAL DURBAR ALBUM.

the State have been the trusted allies of the British Government. During the Mutiny of 1857 A.D. the Nawab of Maler Kotla served with all his forces and saved Ludhiana. For his valuable services he was given the *sanad* of adoption in 1861 A.D. The present ruler H. H. Nawab Mahmad Ahmad Ali Khah Bahadur succeeded his father Nawab Ibrahim Ali Khan who died in August 1908 A.D. He was invested with full powers by H. E. Sir W. L. Dane, Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab on 5th January of 1909 A.D. He takes keen interest in the welfare of his subjects and in the improvements of works of public utility.

The area of the Maler Kotla State is 167 square miles with a population of 77,506 souls. The estimated gross revenue is Rs. 5,47,000.

H. H. Nawab Mahmad Ahmad Khan Bahadur is entitled to a salute of 11 guns including 2 personal guns.



H. H. The Late MAHARAJA OF NABHA.

Nabha.

NABHA is one of the Phulkian States in the Punjab. and consists of two distinct parts, the main portion of which, comprises twelve separate pieces scattered among the other two Phulkian States of Patiala and Jind. The three Phulkian States were divided among the Phulkian houses in 1763 A.D. and the country round Amloh fell to Hamir Singh, then chief of Nabha, who established a separate State for himself and made Nabha its capital. In 1776 A.D. the Phulkian Rajas combined to resist the attack of Mohammedan Governor of Hansi, who had been sent to attack Jind; and after his defeat Rori fell to Hamir Singh as his conquest. In 1733 A.D. Hamir Singh was succeeded by his minor son, Jaswant Singh, who in 1804 A.D. entered with friendly relations with Lord Lake, and kept up his engagement with the British and refused any help to Holkar who halted at Nabha in 1805 A.D. In 1809 A.D. he sought the protection of British Government and with their aid tried to establish peace and order in his State. On his death in 1840 A.D. he was succeeded by his only surviving son Devendar Singh, who sympathised with the Sikh invaders and withheld supplies, and neglected his duty towards the paramount power. He was therefore deposed and a pension of Rs. 50,000 a year was assigned to him from the resources of the Nabha State. Nearly a fourth of the territory was also confiscated, a part of it being bestowed upon the Patiala and Faridkot States in reward for their loyalty. His eldest son, Bharpur Singh, was placed in power in 1857 A.D. He showed distinguished loyalty and rendered important services to the British, for which he was rewarded by grant of territory worth Rs. 1,06,000. In addition, a *sanad* of 1860 A.D. conferred on the Nabha Raja privileges similar to those given to the chiefs of Patiala and Jind. Bharpur Singh died in 1863 A.D. and was succeeded by his brother Bhagwan Singh, who died without issue in 1871 A.D. By the *sanad* granted in 1860 A.D., it was provided that, in a case of failure of male heirs to any one of the three Phulkian houses, a successor should be chosen from among the descendants of Phul by the two chiefs and the representative of the British Government; and Hira Singh, the present Raja was accordingly selected. He ruled the State in an able and efficient manner and rendered loyal services to the British Government on several occasions. He was made a G.C.S.I. in 1879 A.D. and was invested in 1903 A.D. with the insignia of G.C.I.E. at the Delhi Durbar. He was also given a title of Raja-I-Rajgan and his salute was raised from 13 to 15 guns. The Raja lately died and his only son and heir, Tika Sahib Ripudaman Singh, who was an Additional Member for two years has succeeded him.

The area of the Nabha State is 976 square miles with a population 297,249. The State yields an annual revenue of Rs. 14,71,000.

His Highness Tika Saheb Ripudaman Singh of Nabha is entitled to a salute of 15 guns.



H. H. RAJA SIR BALDEO SINGH BAHADUR K. C. I. E.

RAJA OF POONCH

Poonch.

THE history of Poonch so far as the present ruling family is concerned commences with its conquest by Maharaj Ranjit Singh of the Punjab in 1819 A.D. Raja Dhyani Singh the grandfather of the present Raja of Poonch was the Prime Minister of the Maharaja, and was held in very high esteem by him. He granted to him in perpetuity the Raj of the territories known as Bhimbar, Chhibal etc. (which included Poonch) in 1884, A.D. together with the title of 'Raja-i-Rajan Raja Kalan Bahadur'. Subsequently the Maharaja granted the tract of country known as Jasrota, Basauli, Sambha, etc. with the title of 'Farzand-e-Khas', to Raja Hira Singh, the eldest son of Raja Dhyani Singh. After the death of the latter the eldest son was appointed Prime Minister while the raj of Bhimbar and Chhibal devolved on the two younger sons, Rajas Jawahar Singh and Moti Singh. Political events of great importance were happening in the Punjab about this time which culminated in the Sikh War, and defeat of the Sikhs by the British Government. One result of the treaties of 1846 A.D. was that the Jammu and Kashmir territories were made over to Maharaja Gulab Singh, the elder brother of Raja Dhyani Singh. Subsequent family-disputes and shuffling of the political cards led to a partition of the inheritance held by Rajas Jawahar Singh and Moti Singh. The award of the Punjab Board of 1852 A.D. assigned two shares including Chhibal to Raja Jawahar Singh, and one share comprising Poonch to Raja Moti Singh. Raja Moti Singh ruled over his territory for 49 years from 1843 A.D. to his death in 1892 A.D. He rebuilt the Poonch town and effected great improvements in the administration. His son, the present Raja, Sir Baldeo Singh Sahib Bahadur K. C. I. E. succeeded to the *gadi* on 5th. May 1892 A.D. The first important measure of his rule was the abolition of the Theka system of revenue, the next the settlement of the Poonch boundary, and the third the revenue settlement of the whole state on British Indian lines, through the agency of British Officers. A number of departments such as revenue, judicial, accounts, forest, public works, customs, medical and educational etc. have been created and each of them is administered, as far as may be, on British Indian lines. Although politically Poonch is now regarded as a part of Kashmir, the Raja exercises practically independent civil and criminal jurisdiction in his own territories. He deals directly with the Resident in Kashmir through an Officer styled the Special Assistant to the Resident for Poonch. It might also be noted that the present Raja of Poonch is the second cousin of His Highness Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh, the present ruler of Jammu and Kashmir.

The area of the State is 1594 square miles with a population 3,33,380. The revenue amounts to Rs. 7,71,757.

The name of the present chief is Raja Sir Baldeo Singh Bahadur K.C.I.E.



HIS HIGHNESS RAJA AMAR PRAKASH BAHADUR
RAJA OF SIRMOOR

Sirmoor.

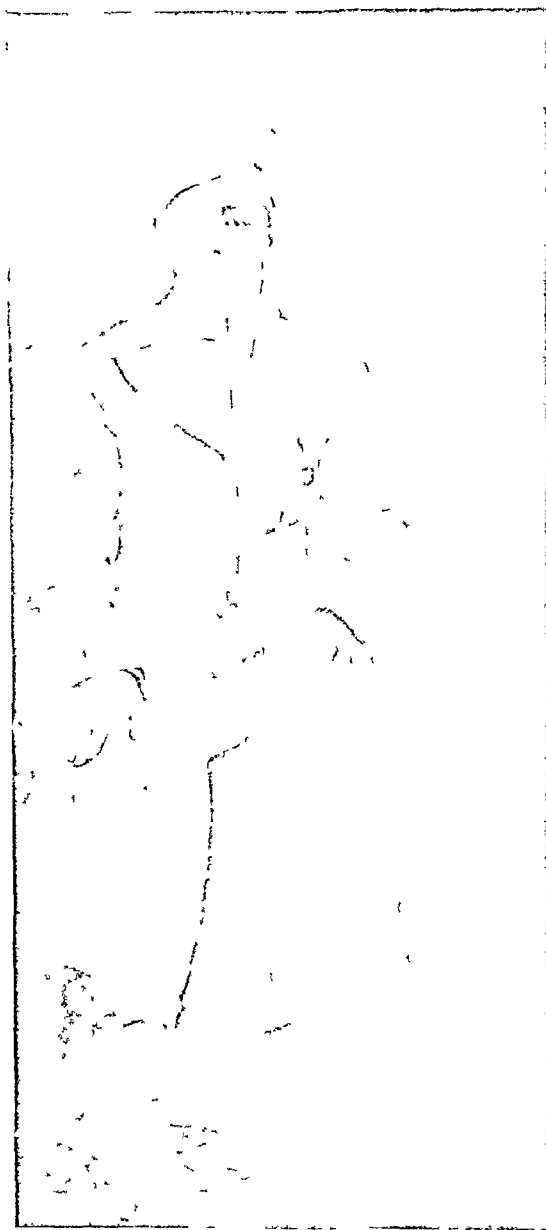
SIRMOOR State, with its head quarters at Nahan is the most important Rajput State in the Punjab hills, and is under the political control of the Commissioner of the Delhi Division. The founder of the State was one Sobha Prakash who conquered the country and established his capital in 1095 A.D. He held the title of Subhans Prakash which the Rajas of Sirmoor have ever since retained. His descendant Karma Prakash founded Nahan the modern capital of Sirmoor in 1621 A.D. His successor, Mandhata, was called upon to aid Khalil-ullah, the general of the emperor Shah-jahan in his invasion of Garhwal, and his successor Sobhag Prakash, received a grant of Kotaha in reward for this service. He and his successor rose to great prominence in the time of Aurangzeb. Raja Fateh Prakash the minor son of Karma Prakash was placed on the throne by the British Government in 1815 A.D. on the conclusion of the Gurakha War. During the first Afgan War the Raja aided Government with a loan, and during the first Sikh War he sent his contingent which showed great bravery at the battle of Harikapatam.

The State owes its present prosperity and excellence of its administration to the policy initiated by H. H. late Maharaja Samsher Prakash who ruled the State from 1856 to 1898 A.D. He was honoured by the British Government with the title of G.C.S.I. His successor Maharaja Sir Surendra Bikram Prakash made additional improvements and remodelled the courts of the State. He was a member of the Legislative Council of the Governor General. He died in 1911 A.D. and was succeeded by Raja Amar Prakash Bahadur the present ruler of Sirmoor. The Raja has received good education under qualified tutors both Indians and Europeans, and has also been trained in the practical administration of the State under the eye of his father, in whose footsteps he promises to prove himself a very capable ruler. His Highness' uncle Lieutenant Colonel Beer Bikram Singh Sahib C.I.E. who holds the Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Bengal Sappers force and is an A.D.C. to His Excellency Lord Hardinge the Viceroy and Governor General of India is the Commanding Officer of the Sirmoor State Service Forces.

The area of Sirmoor is 1077 square miles with a population of 1,38,000 souls. The average revenue of the State is about 60,000 lakhs a year.

The present ruler His Highness Raja Amar Prakash Bahadur enjoys the honour of a salute of 11 guns.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES.



MEHTAR-SHUJA-AT-UL-MULK, C I E.
MEHTAR OF CHITRAL

Chitral.

CHITRAL is a State in the Dir, Swat and Chitral Agency of the North-West Frontier Province, which derives its name from the village of Chitral. The ruling family is descended from Sangin Ali, a foreigner from Khorasan, who died in 1570 A.D., leaving four sons, two of whom made themselves all-powerful in the country, ousting the ancient Rais dynasty. The ruler of Chitral is called Mehtar, who represents the line of the second son of Sangin Ali. This line has maintained itself on the throne for more than 300 years, during the greater part of which Chitral has been constantly at war with her neighbours. In 1854 A.D. the Maharaja of Kashmir made alliance with Shah Afzal, Mehtar of Chitral, against Gauhar Aman, the ruler of Yasin and Mastuj, who was invading Gilgit, a State tributary to Kashmir. A confused period of war and intrigue followed, and Aman-ul-Mulk, the youngest son of Shah Afzal, was formally recognised as Mehtar of Chitral by the Kashmir Darbar, with the approval of Government of India, and doubled the subsidy granted to him with a view to guard against the possibility of Afghan aggression. In 1885-6 A.D. Chitral was visited by the Lockhart Mission, and in 1889 A.D. on the establishment of the Political Agency in Gilgit, Aman-ul-Mulk received a subsidy from the British Government of Rs. 6,000 per annum. Some rifles were also given to him. In 1891 A.D. this subsidy was increased to Rs. 12,000, on condition that he accepted the advice of Government in all matters connected with foreign policy and the defence of the Frontier.

In 1892 A.D. after the sudden death of Aman-ul-Mulk, his second son, Afzal-ul-Mulk, who happened to be on the spot, seized the throne. This event created internal quarrels and disturbed the peace of the country for a few years. The British had to intervene and sent an expedition to Chitral, to quell the rising headed by Sher Afzal and Umra Khan. A few skirmishes took place with the opponents, and ultimately, the courage, diplomacy and gallantry of the British forces won for them the success they well deserved. Sher Afzal was taken prisoner and Umra Khan fled to Afghan territory. Sher Afzal and his leading followers were deported to India and Shuja-ul-Mulk was recognised and confirmed as Mehtar of Chitral. Since then Chitral has enjoyed an unwonted peace.

The present Mehtar of Chitral, Shuja-ul-Mulk, has kept up his friendly relations with the British Government, and in 1903 A.D., attended the Delhi Durbar in person. The Mehtar is an Honourary Commandant of the Chitral Scouts, a corps which was raised in 1903 A.D.

The area of the Chitral State is 4500 square miles with a population of 50,000 persons.



NAWAB MUBAWAD SHARIF KHAN C I E
KHAN OF DIR

Dir.

DIR is one of the territories included in the Dir, Swat, and Chitral Agency, North-West Frontier Province. It takes its name from the village Dir, the capital of the Khan, which lies on the Dir stream, an affluent of the Panjkora. Politically, the Dir territory comprises the country drained by the Panjkora and its affluents, down to the junction of the former river with the Bajaur or Rud, and also the country east of this from a point a little above Tirah in Upper Swat, down to the Dush Khel country, following the right bank of the Swat river throughout. The valley of the Dir is also known as Kashkar.

The Khan of Dir is the overlord of the country, claiming and, when in a position to do so, exacting allegiance from the petty chieftains of the clans, and revenue from the cultivators. Revenue when taken is always the tenth share of the produce (*ushar*) prescribed by Muhammadan law. The country, wherever agriculture is possible, is cultivated and bears rich crops; but the communal system of tenure, with its periodical redistribution of holdings causes slovenly methods to be universal.

Dir is mainly held by Yusufzai Pathans, its old non-Pathan inhabitants, the Bashkars, being now confined to the valley of that name. Both Bashkar and Kashkar have also a considerable Gujar population. The language of the Pathans is the pure Yusufzai Pashtu. The Dir levies, which maintain the security of communications, number 390, including 40 mounted men.

The population of Dir, including all its dependencies, is probably about 1,00,000; and its area, including the Dir Kohistan, of which the boundaries are ill-defined, is about 5000 to 6000 square miles.



MIR MUHAMAD NAZIM KHAN C.I.E.

MIR OF HUNZA.

Hunza-Nagar.

HUNZA-NAGAR are the two small chiefships lying to the extreme north-west of Kashmir, on the banks of the Hunza river, and are known by the joint name Hunza-Nagar. The inhabitants of both chiefships, Hunza and Nagar, come from the same stock and speak the same language, but are not usually on good terms with each other. In Hunza the people are Manlais or Ismailis, followers of the Agakhan, while in Nagar they are ordinarily Shiah.

Lying between these States and Gilgit are Chaprot and Chalt forts with some attached villages, which were long a source of contention between the rival chiefs. In 1877 A.D. the ruler of Nagar with the assistance of the Kashmir Durbar, successfully occupied the disputed tract; but in 1886 A.D. he was persuaded to withdraw his troops which were replaced by a garrison from Kashmir. In the same year Ghazan Khan, the Tham or Chief of Hunza, was murdered by his son Safdar Ali, who succeeded him and professed submission to the Maharaja of Kashmir. The two chiefs combined in 1888 A.D. and ejected the Kashmir troops from Chaprot and Chalt, even threatening Gilgit; but both strongholds were re-occupied by the Kashmir forces after a few months.

A British Agency was re-established at Gilgit in 1889 A.D. and the chiefs agreed to respect the control of the Agent, to allow free passage through their territory, and to stop raiding on the Yarkand road and else where, yearly subsidies being granted to them, besides the amount paid by the Kashmir State. These engagements were not respected; and in May 1891 A.D. a combined force from Hunza and Nagar threatened Chalt, but dispersed on the arrival of reinforcements. Later on in the year they refused to allow roads to be made to Chalt, extending to their own country, and it became necessary to dispatch troops against them. Nagar and Hunza were occupied, and the Tham of the former place submitted, while Safdar Ali, the Than of Hunza, fled to Chinese Turkistan. The subsidies were withdrawn, and a Political officer and military force remained at Hunza till 1897; but in 1892 A.D. Muhammad Nazim Khan was installed as Than in place of his half-brother Safdar Ali, while the Than of Nagar was reinstated. In 1895 A.D. subsidies were again granted by the Government of India and the Kashmir State, and in the same year both chiefs assisted in the relief of Chitral. Zafar Zahid Khan, Tham of Nagar, died in 1904 A.D. and was succeeded by his son Sikandar Khan.

The chief of Hunza, who claims Roskam and the Taghdumbash Pamir north of the Hindu Kush watershed, is permitted to exchange presents with the Chinese authorities in Kashgar, but these relations are under consideration. Both States are autonomous as regards internal affairs, and acknowledge the suzeranty of the Maharaja of Kashmir, to whom they pay a tribute of nominal value. They furnished levies for the defence of the frontier, who receive pay from the Kashmir State, and are armed with Sinder carbines, presented by the Government of India.



HIS HIGHNESS SIKANDAR KHAN
THAM OF NAGAR



JAM MIR KAMAL KHAN
CHIEF OF LAS BELA

Las Bela.

LAS BELA is a State in Baluchistan. Its eastern boundary marches with that of the British Province of Sind, and it possesses a coast line of about 200 miles, within which are situated the sea-ports of Sonmiani and Ormara. The capital is Bela about 100 miles north-west of Karachi. The inhabitants are mainly pastoral and agricultural, but an appreciable number along with the coast are engaged in a flourishing fishing industry. The principal exports consist of dried fish, shark fins, raw isinglass, hides, wool, dates, and rape seed.

The ruling Chief of Las Bela, known as the Jam, belongs to the Aliani family of the Jamot tribe of Kureshi Arabs, whose founder was Jam Ali Khan I who became independent in 1742 A.D. The most prominent of his successors was Jam Mir Khan II who proved himself skilful organizer during his long reign. He allied himself with the chiefs of the Jhalawan country in three rebellions against Mir Khudadad Khan of Kalat, but in 1869 A.D. he was obliged to fly to British territory. In 1877 A.D. he was restored to the *masnad* and on his death in 1888 A.D. was succeeded by Mir Jam Ali Khan who was made a K.C.I.E. for his friendly relations with the British.

The present ruling Chief succeeded his father H. H. Sir Jam Ali Khan in 1896 A.D.

Las Bela lies on one of the principal ancient trade routes between East and West. It was traversed by Alexander the Great, on his return march from India, and is rich in archæological remains. It contains shrines of great sanctity. The shrine at Hinglaj is dedicated to the God of Nani which is famous from the Euphrates to the Ganges, and is resorted to by Hindus and Muhammadans alike, being probably dedicated to the same divinity who was venerated by the Chaldeans, under the name of Nana, a thousand years before the time of Abraham.

The area of the Las Bela State is about 6500 square miles and a population according to the census of 1911 A.D., of 61,200 persons. The revenue is about Rs 2,60,000 lakhs but it varies according to the character of the agricultural seasons.

UNITED PROVINCES
OF
AGRA AND OUDH.



Johnston and Tristram Calcutta.

MAHARAJA SIR PARTAB NARAYAN SINGH, K.C.I.E.,
MAHARAJA OF AJODHYA.

Ajodhya.

THE founder of this family was one Sadasukh Pathak, a Sakaldipi Brahmin, who held the office of Chaudhari in Bhojpur. After the defeat of Sujah-ud-daula by the English, his son Gopal Ram, left his home and settled at Nandnagar in the Basti District. He was the father of Purandhar Ram Pathak, who crossed the Ghagra and married into the family of Sadhai Ram, a Misra Brahmin of Palia in Fyzabad.

Purandhar Ram had five sons, all of whom became men of considerable note. Bakhtawar Singh, the eldest son, commenced life as a trooper, but rose to the position of a Raja, and established himself at Mahdauna, where he acquired a large estate. He died in the year 1855 A.D. leaving a will in favour of his nephew Man Singh, who had been appointed Nazim of Daryabad, Radauli and Sultanpur, and had already obtained the title of Raja Bahadur. He had by this time acquired an immense estate, and at annexation engaged for the Mahdauna Taluka. Being returned as a defaulter, however, he was deprived of his property and placed in confinement in Fyzabad.

At the uproar of the Mutiny, he was released and did good service to the English, in rescuing twenty-nine fugitives and escorting them safely to Gorakhpur. After the capture of Lucknow, he was besieged by the rebels at Shahganj, but was relieved by Sir Hope Grant. At a durbar held at Lucknow in 1859 A.D. he was honoured with the title of Maharaja Bahadur, for the good services he had done in the time of the Mutiny. When peace was restored, Maharaja Man Singh took his place as the most influential of all the Talukdars in the great Oudh controversies that for so long a time engaged a share of the public attention. In 1869 A.D. he was created a K.C.S.I.; and in the following year he died, being then fifty years old.

As Maharaja Sir Man Singh had no son, he left his property to his widow. In 1875 A.D. she adopted as her heir Lal Triloki Nath Singh; but the succession was much disputed, and, after protracted litigation, was decided in favour of Raja Partab Narayan Singh, the grandson of Man Singh by his daughter. In 1887 A.D. Raja Partab Narayan Singh received the personal title of Maharaja, and in 1890 A.D. the name of the estate was changed from Mahdauna to Ajodhya. In 1895 A.D. the Maharaja was created a Knight Commander of the Indian Empire. He served for two years on the Viceroy's Legislative Council, and for eight years was a member of the Lieutenant-Governor's Council. The personal title of Mahamahopadhyaya was conferred on the Maharaja in the year 1906. The Maharaja died in the same year and was succeeded by the junior Maharani, Jagdamba Devi, on whose behalf the estate was taken under the Court of Wards.

The estate brings an annual income of about Rs. 4,72,700.



RAJA SURAJPAL SINGH
RAJA OF AWAGARH

Awagarh.

AWA is an estate in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. The ruling family are Jadon Thakurs, who are said to have settled in the Muttra district in the 14th century. They are connected with the family of the Raja of Karauli, and the first name known is that of Chattarbhoj Singh, who settled at Jalesar in 1701 A.D. From this time, the family rapidly increased in wealth and importance. Hira Singh the third in descent from Chattarbhoj Singh, built the existing castle at Awa, for which his father Bukht Singh had obtained permission from the Mahrattas, and received a *sanad* from Lord Lake in 1803, confirming him in his estates. Hira Singh was famous for his generosity and charity, and is the subject of many interesting stories. His son Pitamber Singh was recognised by Lord Auckland as Raja in 1838 A.D.

Pitamber Singh had no son. He married his daughter Janki Kumariji to the Maharaja of Raghogarh. Being disappointed in the hope of a grandson also, he adopted his cousin Prithi Raj Singh, who succeeded to the title and did excellent service in the Mutiny. He was given charge of the Jalesar Tahsil on behalf of Government; and he informed them that he required no assistance from them. He raised a body of troops, and held the country till the capture of Delhi. He also gave considerable help to European officers. In return for these services, he obtained a large grant of confiscated lands. In 1876 A.D. Prithi Raj died passing his last days in religious seclusion at Benaras; and was succeeded by his minor son Chattarpal Singh. The estate was then taken over by the Court of Wards, but on Chattarpal's death in 1884 A.D., the estate was released in favour of Baldeo Singh, a nephew of Prithi Raj Singh. Baldeo Singh died childless in 1892 A.D. and was succeeded by his brother, Balwant Singh, who ruled till his death in 1909. Raja Balwant Singh was distinguished for his able management and in 1898 A.D., was made a C. I. E for his public services during the severe famine of 1897 A.D. He was also invited to attend the Coronation of His late Majesty King Edward VII. For two years, he was a Member of the Provincial Legislative Council.

The present holder of the title is Raja Surajpal Singh, who is a minor, and is being educated at the Mayo College, Ajmere.

The area of the estate is 300 square miles with an income of about 10 lacs per annum.



Johnston and Hoffmann Calcutta

H H SIR BHAGWATI PRASAD SINGH K C I E
THE MAHARAJA OF BALARAMPUR

Balrampur.

THE Maharaja of Balrampur is a Rajput of the Janwar clan, and the largest landed proprietor in Oudh. The family represents the younger branch of the great Janwar house of Ikauna in Bahraich, found by Bariar Sah, the son of Raja Mansukh Deo, of Pawagarh in Gujraht, who came to Oudh with Phiroz Shah in the year 1374 A.D.

Raja Ganga Singh, sixth in descent from Bariar Sah, had two sons, of whom the younger, Madho Singh, went eastwards and acquired a new estate for himself between the Rapti and the Kuwana rivers. His son, Balram Das, was the founder of the Balrampur Estate. Successors of Balram Das held the estate independantly. However, Narayan Singh afterwards had to yield to Saadat Khan, the first Nawab Wazir of Oudh. Raja Narayan Singh was succeeded by his son Prithipal Singh, who died in 1781 A.D. Raja Nawal Singh came to the *gadi* after him, and is said to have fought with the Oudh officials on twenty-two occasions. Nawal Singh was succeeded by his son Arjun Singh in 1807 A.D., who held the estate till 1830 A.D. He too was constantly at war with the revenue authorities of Oudh. His son, Raja Jai Narayan Singh, died without issue in 1836 A.D. and was succeeded by his brother Raja Drigbijai Singh, then a boy of eighteen. He was a brave soldier, and fought with his neighbouring chiefs. He was, however, defeated by Raja Darshan Singh in 1842 A.D. and had to go to Nepal. Thither he was pursued by Raja Darshan Singh, but the violation of Nepal territory brought about the removal of the Nazim, and the Raja returned to Balrampur where he resumed the engagement for the entire estate.

During the trying times of the Mutiny, Raja Drigbijai Singh remained loyal to the British Government, giving shelter to Sir Charles Wvingfield and other officers from Gonda and Sikraura. For this action he was proscribed by the rebel government, and his lands given to the Rajas of Tulsipur and Utraula; but no one was found strong enough to carry out this order. In reward for his services, he was granted the personal title of Maharaja Bahadur and also the confiscated pargana of Tulsipur, and large estates in Bahraich; and the regular settlement of his estates was made in perpetuity.

Maharaja Drigbijai Singh Bahadur was invested with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Star of India in 1866 A.D., and on the 1st of January 1877 A.D. he was accorded the exceptional distinction of a salute of nine guns. For some time, he was also an additional member of the Viceroy's Council. He died in 1882 A.D. leaving the estate to his widow, who held it till her death in 1893 A.D. She had adopted as heir, Bhagwati Prasad Singh.

From 1893 A.D. till June 1900 the estate was under the management of the Court of Wards. On attaining majority, the young Raja was placed on the *gaar* by the Chief Commissioner and received the personal title of Maharaja. Since his accession, he has made large additions to his estates. He was created a K. C. I. E. in 1906 A.D. and on the death of the Maharaja of Ajodhya, became President of the British India Association.

The estate brings an income of about Rs. 6,52,912 per annum.,



Herzog & Higgins Mho.

H. H. SIR PRABHU NARAIN SINGH BAHADUR G.C.I.E.
THE MAHARAJA OF BENARAS

Benares.

THE original home of the family of the Maharajas of Benares, who are styled Bhumihar Brahmins, was the village Gangapur near Benares. Mansa Ram was the first person of this family, who rose high in favour of Rustam Ali, the Governor of Benares. In 1738 A.D. he obtained the revenue engagement for the *Sarkars* of Jaunpur, Chunar, and Benares, in the name of his son, Balwant Singh, who also received the title of Raja Bahadur. Balwant Singh never acquired the full administrative control of the province; however he was sufficiently powerful to offer resistance on several occasions to Safdar Jang and his successor Shuja-ud-daula. In consequence of the latter's attempts to secure the person of Balwant Singh, he abandoned his ancestral home at Gangapur, and built a new fort at Ramnagar near Benares. Raja Balwant Singh was an able man and he made considerable extensions to his dominions. He died in 1770 A.D. and was succeeded by Chet Singh, his illegitimate son. In 1778 A.D. it was proposed that Chet Singh should be required to pay a subsidy of five lacs for the maintenance of three battalions of sepoys. He consented to the arrangement for one year, but afterwards he was found to be unwilling to pay it. He was also at the same time in secret correspondence with the enemies of the Government. In 1781 A.D. he was arrested in his own house by Warren Hastings; a tumult ensued, in which the military guard was cut down and the Raja made his escape. He then collected his troops and tried to recover his estate, but was defeated. The British Government installed Raja Mahip Narayan, the son-in-law of Balwant Singh, in Chet Singh's place. Chet Singh took refuge with Sindhia and died at Gwalior in 1810 A.D.

Raja Mahip Narayan, who was of weak intellect and health, died in 1795 A.D. and was succeeded by his son, Raja Udit Narayan Singh Bahadur. Raja Udit Narayan Singh died in 1835 A.D. and was succeeded by his adopted son Iswari Prasad Narayan Singh. The latter remained loyal in the Mutiny, and was given in 1859 A.D. the title of Maharaja Bahadur as a personal distinction; and in 1877 A.D. he was created a Knight Grand Commander of the Star of India. He died in June 1889 A.D. and was succeeded by his adopted son, Prabhu Narayan Singh, the present Maharaja, who received the personal titles of Highness and Maharaja Bahadur. In 1891 A.D. he was created a K.C.I.E., and in 1898 A.D. he was raised to the dignity of a Knight Grand Commander of the same order. The present Maharaja has been raised to the position of a ruling chief, and given full powers over his territory in the year 1910 A.D.

The estate of the Maharaja has an area of about 4,15,092 acres, with a revenue demand of Rs. 4,25,650

His Highness Maharaja Sir Prabhu Narayan Singh G.C.I.E. is entitled to a salute of 13 guns.



MAHARAJA MAHENDRA MAN SINGH
MAHARAJA OF BHADAWAR

Bhadawar.

THE Raja is the head of the Bhadauria clan of Rajputs, and the family is recognised as among the most noble in the United Provinces. The name is derived from Bhadaura, a village of *pargana* Ater in Gwalior, and the tract known in history as Bhadawar included Ater, Bhind, and other portions of Gwalior, as well as the present Bah *tahsil* of the Agra district.

The early history of the Bhadawar clan is very obscure. They appear to have spread over the Bah *tahsil*, and the adjoining tracts to the south, and it seems that they were a powerful and turbulent race. They gave much trouble in the days of Lodi Sultans and Akbar. In the latter's reign they were led by one Rajju. The next Raja was killed under the feet of an elephant by Akbar's order. His successor, Mukatman, entered the imperial service and rose to be a *mansabdar* of 1,000. In the reign of Shah Jahan, mention is made of Raja Kishan Singh a distinguished soldier who died in 1643. He was succeeded by Badan Singh who was created a Raja and a *mansabdar* of 1,000. In 1653 he served in the army before Kandahar. His son, Raja Maha Singh, who succeeded him, entered the service of Aurangzeb and fought against the Bundelas, and in the Yusufzai expedition.

In 1755 Bakhatlal Singh retained the independent possession of Bhadawar under the patronage of Sindhia, by whom he was directed in 1784 to attack his old friend the Rana of Gohad. Raja Bhakatlal Singh refused to do so; and this led to the confiscation of his estates. The next year, however, 30 villages were restored to Rani Sukhwat, the widow of Himmat Jai Singh, and these have ever since remained in the possession of the family. In 1803 Bakhatlal Singh assisted the British against Sindhia, and was rewarded with the revenue-free grant of Ater. In 1805 A.D. the *pargana* was invaded by Holkar but the Raja managed to hold his own till the advent of reinforcements from Agra. He was recommended a handsome reward, but with the arrival of Lord Cornwallis as Governor-General a change of policy ensued, Ater being restored to Sindia who in 1808 A.D. resumed the grant of the *pargana*. In 1809 A.D. the Raja was given an annual pension of Rs. 24,100 representing the revenue of thirty villages which at the settlement of 1840 were declared revenue-free in perpetuity.

Mahendra Mahendra Singh, the great grandson of Bakhatlal Singh, behaved with conspicuous loyalty during the Mutiny, holding Bah on behalf of the Government. In 1881 A.D. he was awarded the personal title of Maharaja, and in 1891 A.D. was created a C.I.E. The present holder of the title is Mahendra Man Singh the adopted son of the late Raja. The estate is now managed by the Court of Wards.



RAJA MAHENDRA BIKRAM SINGH.
CHIEF OF BHINGA.

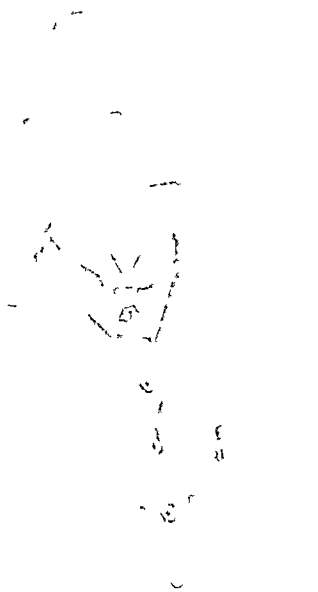
Bhinga.

BHINGA is an estate in the United Provinces. The Raja is a descendant of the old Bisen family of Gonda, his ancestor being Raja Bhawani Singh, the younger brother of the famous Raja Datt Singh of Gonda. The Bhinga *Taluka* was originally held by a cadet of the Ikauna house. Lalit Singh of Bhinga, about the end of the seventeenth century, found himself hard pressed by the lawless Banjaras of the forest, and called in the aid of Bhawani Singh, his brother-in-law. The latter expelled the insurgents and took possession of the estate, which he and his descendants subsequently enlarged. Datt Singh bestowed the title of Raja on his brother.

The subsequent Rajas of Bhinga did not figure prominently in history, Raja Kishan Datt Singh took part in the rebellion, and though he submitted, he lost half his state for the concealment of cannons. He died in 1884 A.D. and was succeeded by his eldest son Udai Partab Singh.

The Raja was educated at the Ward's Institution of Lucknow, and is a man of note as a scholar and philanthropist. In 1888 A.D. he published a work "Democracy not suited to India." He served on the Public Service Commission, and in 1882 A.D. was given the personal title of Raja. This was made hereditary in 1884 A.D. and in 1893 A.D. he was created a Companion of the Star of India. He is also a fellow of the Calcutta and Allahabad Universities. Since the year 1895 A.D., however, the Raja has retired from the public life and is passing his days at Benaras, entrusting his estate to his only son Mahendra Bikram Singh.

The estate brings an income of Rs. 1,09,446 every year.



RAJA LAL CHANDRA CHUR SINGH
RAJA OF CHANDAPUR

Partabgarh.

THE Raja of Partabgarh belongs to the family of Somahausi Rajputs. Abhiman Singh, founder of the Tarawal (Partabgarh) estate, left three sons. The eldest allowed himself to be ousted by Gulab Singh, the younger son of his uncle Surnam Singh, and had to be content with a single village given him for maintenance. Gulab Singh largely increased his estate and attempted to render his position more secure by the murder of Sarabjit Singh, grandson of Abhiman Singh. The murdered man had two brothers, Ajit Singh and Bishnath Singh who in 1858 A.D. filed a suit against Gulab Singh for the property; but before it could be decided the Mutiny broke out.

Gulab Singh aided the rebels, while Ajit Singh remained loyal to the British; consequently the estate of Tarawal was taken from the former and bestowed upon the latter together with large properties in Kheri, Hardui and Urao. In 1866 A.D. Ajit Singh bought from the Government the fort of Partabgarh and restored the palaces of the old Rajahs. In 1877 A.D. he received the personal title of Raja, which was made hereditary in 1898 A.D.

Raja Ajit Singh died in 1889 A.D. and was succeeded by his adopted son Partab Bahadur Singh. He was educated at the Partabgarh High School. The present Raja was twice elected to the Local Legislative Council by the Allahabad group of District Boards before 1909 A.D.; and now represents that great historic body, the Taluqdars of Oudh in the Imperial Legislative Council. In 1903 A.D. he was invited to London to attend the coronation of His late Majesty King Edward VII; and in 1904 A.D. he was made a C. I. E. He always takes a keen and lively interest in all matters calculated to improve the moral and material condition of the people, and has opened a High School for secondary education, and a Sanskrit Pathshala for the maintenance of which and other charitable institutions he has endowed a portion of his estate. He has established charitable dispensaries, where medicine is given *gratis* to the public. He is by nature of a benevolent disposition and winning manners.

The estate of Kila Partabgarh has an income of about Rs. 1,84,354.



RAJA BRIJ NARAYAN

RAJA OF PADRAUNA.

Padrauna.

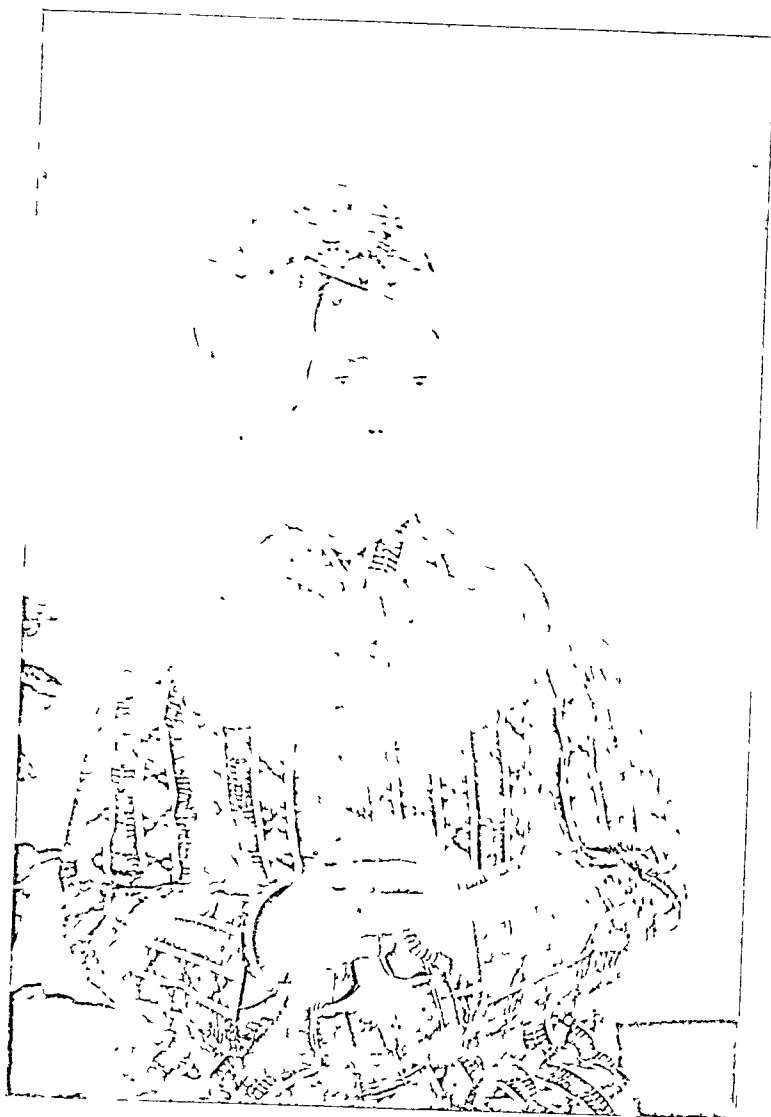
THE Padrauna estate is situated in the north-eastern part of the Gorakhpur District. This family of Kurmis was founded by a descendant of the Raja of Majhauili named Bhopal Rai, of Kara in Allahabad, in 1650 A.D., and during the ensuing half century the original grant of five waste villages given by the Raja was rapidly extended, owing to the action of the small zamindars of the neighbourhood, who surrendered a portion of their rights in return for the protection of the Talukdars against the Banjaras of the north; and also by the prowess of Nathu Rai, who took many villages from the Chandels and the Raja of Butwal, and is said to have received a *nankar* grant of thirty-three villages from Aurangzeb in 1686 A.D. The descendants of the first grantee divided the possessions, and one branch of the family lost its estates for rebellion during the Mutiny. The other half, though once sold for arrears, and on another occasion almost ruined by litigation between its owners and the Maharaja of Bettiah, was saved by the industry and ability of Rai Iswari Pratab, and is now in a flourishing condition.

Iswari Pratab remained loyal during the Mutiny. He was succeeded by his son, Rai Madan Gopal, who largely improved the estate and received a *Khilat* for his services during the famine of 1878 A.D. He died childless in 1890 A.D. and the title passed to his cousin and adopted son, Udit Narayan, who was awarded the personal title of Raja in 1897 A.D. He died in 1900 A.D. and was succeeded by his elder son, Brij Narayan, who is a courteous, well educated, and enlightened gentleman. To commemorate the memory of our late Queen Empress Victoria, the Raja has built a hospital in Padrauna, and maintains it without any aid from outside, giving medicines free to all. His meritorious services, were acknowledged in 1903 A.D. by conferring on him a *sanad* by our late Emperor His Majesty King Edward VII. In the year 1906 A.D. he was honoured with the personal title of Raja.

The estate brings an annual income of about one lakh of rupees.



RAJA UDIT NARAYAN SINGH.
RAJA OF RAMNAGAR



RAJA INDRAJIT PRATAP BAHADUR SAHI,
RAJA OF TAMKONI.

Tamkohi.

THE Rajah of Tamkohi belongs to the Bagonehhia clan of the Bhumihar-Brahman caste and claims descent from Mayur Bhat, the founder of the Majhauri Raj, by his Bhumihar wife. The offspring of this union Bachal received as his share, the north-eastern portion of the estate, which for many centuries was held by his descendants and is at present represented by the two estates, Hathwa in Saran (Bengal) and Tamkohi in Gorakpur (U.P.) The Rajah who rose to prominence was Kalyan Mull who obtained the recognition of his title of Rajah from the Emperor of Dehli.

Sixth in descent from Kalyan Mull came Raja Gandharp Sahi, alias Raja Hamir Sahi who obtained in recognition of his services a *khilat* and the badge of a lion from Mahammad Shah, the Emperor of Dehli. He was succeeded by his brother, Raja Nripat Sahi whose descendants ruled at Hoosaypur till the days of Raja Fateh Sahi. The latter refused to acknowledge the authority of the East India Company and after the battle of Buxar in 1764 A.D. he was compelled to leave his family seat of Hoosaypur, and removed it to Bank Jogni (Tamkohi) in Gorakpur. The East India Company then granted the estate to Balu Chatradhari Sahi, another member of the family. He was also invested with the title of Maharaja Bahadur and was the sixth ancestor of the present minor Maharaj-Kumar of the Hathwa Raj.

Raja Fateh Sahi had four sons, all of whom tried to recover their lost dominions, but without success. Fateh Sahi was succeeded by his eldest son Raja Arimardan Sahi, who died without issue and was succeeded by his brother Raja Dalmardan Sahi. Raja Dalip Sahi, son of Dalmardan Sahi, left no heir; and thus the estate went to Raja Kharag Bahadur Sing, the great grandson of Raja Fateh Sahi. Raja Kharag Bahadur Sahi obtained the recognition of his title from the Government and was succeeded by his son, Raja Kishan Partab Bahadur Sahi. The latter died in 1892 A.D., leaving two sons, of whom the elder, Raja Satrajit Partab Bahadur Sahi obtained the estate. He died in 1898 A.D. and was succeeded by the present holder of the title Raja Indrajit Partab Bahadur Sahi. The property is under the management of the Court of Wards. The villages in Gaya were obtained partly by purchase and partly by a legacy to Raja Kharag Bahadur the maternal grandfather, the Raja of Tikari; and the Sarsundia estate in Muzaffarpur was bequeathed to Satrujit Partab Bahadur by Rajah Raghunandan Singh.

The estate has an income of about Rs. 1,05,000.

BENGAL PRESIDENCY.



RAJA BIJAYA SINGH DUDHORIA
RAJA OF AZIMGANJ

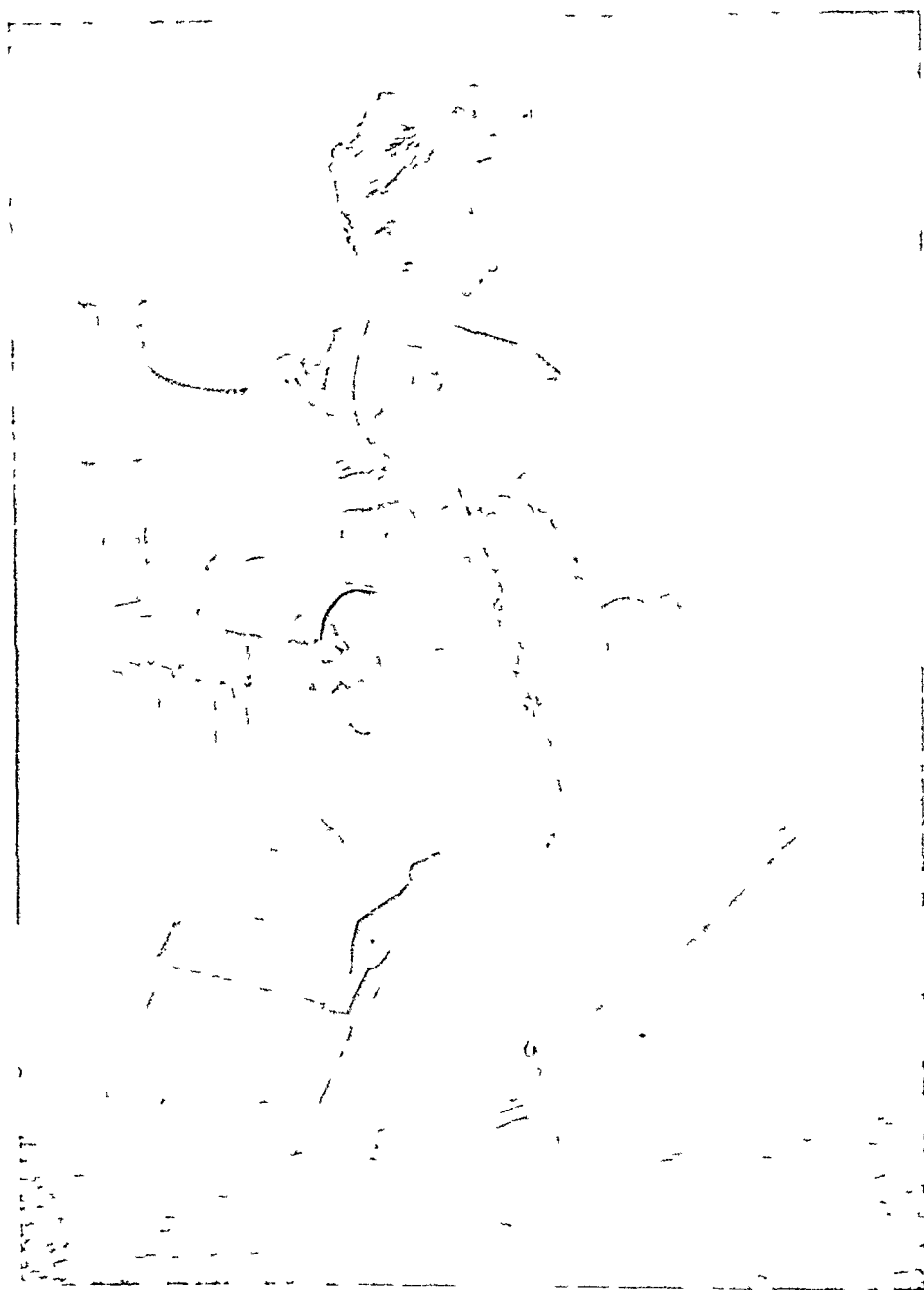
Azimganj.

AZIMGANJ is a small zamindari estate in the district of Murshidabad in Bengal. Azimganj is the terminus of the branch railway from Nalhati junction, and is an important trade centre. The town contains many well-built houses and some handsome temples belonging to Jain merchants. A municipality was established at Azimganj in 1896 A.D., and since then the sanitation of the town has been considerably improved.

The present zamindar of the Azimganj is Raja Bijaya Singh Dudhuria, who is a well-known and much respected personage in the Murshidabad district. His father, Rai Bissen Chand Dudhuria Bahadur, was a rich zamindar and banker in the district, who greatly added to the ancestral property. Bijaya Singh was born in 1879 A.D. at Azimganj. He being the only son and heir of Rai Bissen Chand, great care was taken for his education. Rai Bissen Chand Bahadur died in 1894 A.D. in the prime of his life, when his son was only 14 years old. In his minority, the estate was managed by his uncle, who was appointed guardian by the District Judge of Murshidabad. In 1900 A.D. Bijaya Singh took the management of his estate in his own hands and began to take keen interest in public affairs. Since then he has rendered valuable services to the public cause, and earned good name from the public as well as local Government. In recognition of his public services, the title of "Raja" was conferred on him by Government in 1908 A.D. Sir Andrew Fraser, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, presented the *sanad* and *khilat* to the Raja and addressed him the following words—

"Raja Bijaya Singh Dudhuria, I congratulate you very heartily on the high honour, which has been bestowed upon you. You have started life under very favourable circumstances. You have inherited a high position and good traditions. Your father has done distinguished public service, and we believe that you are following his steps. You have been very liberal in encouraging works of beneficence, and I trust that you will be long spared to help forward good work in this province."

Raja Bijaya Singh was invited by the Government of Bengal to the Imperial Coronation Durbar at Delhi, as one of the representative noblemen of the Province.



RAJA TRIBHUVAN DEO

RAJA OF BAMRA

Bamra.

BAMRA is a small Feudatory State in Bengal. It occupies a tract of hilly country between the valley of the Mahanadi and the Chota Nagpur plateau. Upto 1905 A.D. the State was under the political control of the Central Provinces. The eastern portion of the State consists of a mass of hills and jungles, but to the west and north there is open and fertile country. The only important river is the Brahmini, which flows through a small strip on the eastern border.

The ruling family of Bamra are Gangbanshi Rajputs. They have a genealogy dating back to 1602 A.D.; and according to their traditions, the first Raja of Bamra belonged to the royal family of Patna State, and was stolen from his home and made king of Bamra by the Bhinyas and Khonds. The late Raja, Sir Sudhal Deo, K.C.I.E., was a gentleman of advanced education and enlightened views, who did much to improve his State. He died in 1903 A.D. and was succeeded by his son, Raja Tribhuvan Deo. The relations of the State with Government are controlled by a Political Agent subordinate to the Commissioner of Orissa.

The revenue of the Bamra State is about Rs. 1,50,000, the principal items being land revenue, forest and excise.

The total area of the State is 1,988 square miles, and the capital is Deogarh. In 1904 A.D. the State had 28 schools with 1,005 pupils, including a high school at Deogarh.

At the census of 1901 the population numbered 1,23,378 persons, mainly Oriya Chasas, Kisans, Garhas, and Gondas being the most important castes numerically. There are also a number of Gonds and Bhinyas.

The name of the present ruler is Raja Tribhuvan Deo.



MAHARAJADHIRAJ BIJAY CHAND MAHTAB, K.C.I.E., I.O.M.
MAHARAJA OF BURDWAN

Burdwan.

THE Burdwan Raj Estate is the largest zamindari in Bengal, comprising an area of 4500 square miles, in nineteen Districts, but chiefly in Burdwan, Manbhum, Hoogly, and Birbhum. The founder of the Raj family of Burdwan was Abu Rai of Kotti in Lahore. He was a Kapur Kshatriya by caste, and migrated to Burdwan early in the 17th century. He and his descendants were much in the good graces of the Moghul Emperors and many privileges were granted to them.

Chitra Sen Rai, son of Kirti Chand, was the first recipient of the title of 'Raja' from the Moghul Emperor in 1740 A.D.; but the Imperial *firman*, granted to Tilak Chand (1744-91 A.D.), his cousin and successor, conferring the title of "Raja Bahadur", and making him master of 5000 infantry and 3000 cavalry, with authority to keep guns &c., tends to show that the status thus created was in no way inferior to that of a semi-independent chief, the Raj being in a way independent of the Nawab Nazims of Bengal.

Tilak Chand was succeeded by Tej Chand (1771-1832 A.D.) and Mahtab Chand (1832-1879 A.D.) The latter assisted the Government in suppressing the Santal rebellion of 1855 A.D., and later at the time of the Mutiny, and received a salute of thirteen guns and the title of His Highness. His adopted son, Aftab Chand, ruled the Raj only for four years (1881-1885 A.D.) The Burdwan Raj College, the Water Works, and the Public Library were the gifts of this wise ruler. Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.I.E., I.O.M., the present Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, was installed on the Raj *gadi* on the 10th February 1903 A.D. by Mr. (now Sir) J. A. Bourdillon, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. During his minority, the vast estates of the Burdwan Raj were managed by the Court of Wards, the chief manager having been his father, Raja Ban Bihari Kapur. Bijay Chand Mahtab was confirmed in the hereditary title of Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan at the Delhi Durbar in 1903 A.D., when Raja Ban Bihari Kapur was also made a C.S.I. in recognition of his commendable services to the Estate during the minority of the Maharajadhiraja. Sir Bijay Chand was created a K.C.I.E. on the 1st January 1909 A.D., and at the same time, he was admitted into the Third Class Indian Order of Merit, for the conspicuous courage displayed by him in the Town Hall meeting, on the 7th November 1908 A.D., when he helped to save the life of Sir Andrew Fraser, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, by interposing his own person between Sir Andrew and the would-be assassin's revolver, and thus shielding the Lieutenant-Governor at the risk of his life.

The present Maharajadhiraja is a great patron of the divine arts, and that, he himself is a composer of no mean order, is evidenced by his "Bijay Gitika." He is a fluent speaker, a keen politician, and an all-round accomplished gentleman, whose liberal principles, versatile attainments, manifold acts of kindness and charity, have endeared him to the Government and public alike.

The Maharajadhiraja of Burdwan is the largest revenue-payer in India, the present demand from the estate on account of land-revenue and cesses being 3·7 lakhs and 3·3 lakhs respectively.



SHRI JYOTI PRASAD SINGH DEO BAHADUR
ZAMINDAR OF CHAKLA PANCHKOTE.

Chakla Panchkote.

CHAKLA PANCHKOTE is a small Zamindari estate situated on the western frontiers of Bengal. The present proprietor of the estate is Shri Jyoti Prasad Singh Deo. Native chronicles relate that the Raj was founded in Shakabda 2 (81 A. D.) by the Maharaja-dhiraja Shri Damodar Shekhar Deo Bahadur, a Rajput scion of the family of Maharaja-dhiraja Shri Shri Udayjet Singh Deo Bahadur, who reigned in Dharanagarh, North-West Provinces. Bir Narayan, the Raja of Panchkote, who was a commander of 300 horse under the Moghul Emperor Shah Jehan, died in the 6th year A. H. 1042-43 (1632-33 A. D.) The Rajas of Panchkote had their residence on the top of the Panchkote Hills, and the remains of the old palace and the fort, consisting of well-built and highly ornamented Hindu temples, are extensive, and are still in existence. The great grand-father of the present Raja removed his capital to Kashipur in the District of Manbhum, where the family at present reside. The Rajas of Panchkote were addressed as Maharaja-dhiraj by officers of the Honourable East India Company. The title of Raja was conferred upon Nilmani Singh Deo Bahadur, grand-father of the present Zamindar, by Lord Canning, the then Governor-General of India, in 1861 A. D. The charity of this family is proverbial, and as many as 201 villages were granted rent free by the Rajas of Panchkote to Brahmins and high-caste Hindus, in order to improve the social condition of that part of the country.

Shri Jyoti Prasad Singh Deo Bahadur, the present holder of the estate, who is the 67th in descent from the founder of the Raj, was born in Shakabda 1803 (1881 A. D.) and succeeded to the Raj in 1901 A. D. He married the sister of the present Maharaja of Mayurbhanja, a tributary estate in the province of Orissa. He is a good-natured educated Zamindar, and is fully alive to the tradition of his family, and is ever ready to contribute liberally to charitable institutions and works of public utility, more particularly in the Districts of Burdwan, Bankura and Manbhum in which the Chakla Estate is situated.



H. H. The Late MAHARAJA OF COOCH BEHAR.

Cooch Behar.

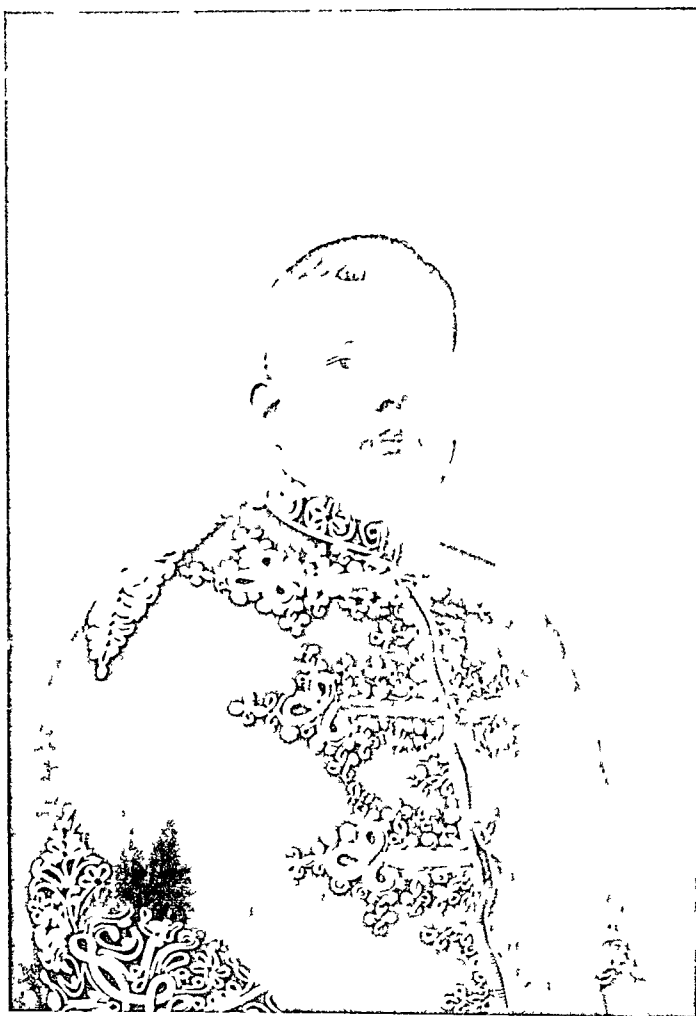
C O O C H B E H A R is a Feudatory State in North Bengal which once formed part of the ancient and famous Kingdom of Kamarupa. The ruling family has held uninterrupted sovereignty of Cooch Behar for the last 400 years. From this family also descend the Bijni and Darang houses in Assam, the Raikats of Baikunthpur in Jalpaiguri, and the Panga family in Rungpore. Their territory at one time extended all over Northern Bengal, and included the whole of Assam and Bhutan. The founder of this family is said to be Chandan, who established himself in 1510 A.D. as an independent Koch King of Cooch Behar. The first connection of the East India Company dates from 1772 A.D., when Warren Hastings, the then Governor of Bengal, assisted the Raja in expelling the Bhotias and restoring peace in Cooch Behar. The Raja entered into a treaty of friendship with the East India Company on April 5th, 1773 A.D., and acknowledged the suzerainty of the British Government. The State was not free from domestic dissensions and had to be kept under the British Resident or Commissioner till the late Maharaja Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur was installed on the *gadi* in 1878 A.D.

Maharaja Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur G. C. I. E., C. B., who had received a wholly European training and education, and had several times visited England, ruled the State with much ability, and earned great favour of the British Government by his loyal services to the Crown. In 1897 A.D., he accompanied the late General Biggs in the Tirah Campaign and was present at the famous battles on the Dargai and Samana. For his services he was specially mentioned in the despatches and conferred the distinction of Military Companion of Bath, and was decorated with the Star of that Order, by the late Queen-Empress herself, when he visited England in 1898 A.D. He introduced several useful reforms in the administration of the State, and founded the Victoria College for higher education in 1888 A.D.

He granted a long term settlement of revenue to his subjects for 30 years, assessment being made on the most approved principle. He was a great social reformer and had married the eldest daughter of the great religious reformer Babu Keshav Chandra Sen. He died recently and was succeeded by his eldest son, Maharaja Rai Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur, who promises to be an efficient and popular ruler.

The area of the State is 1307 square miles with a population of six lakhs.

The full name of the present ruler of Cooch Behar is Maharaja Rai Rajendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur who is entitled to a salute of 13 guns.



RAJA SIR PRATAP MAHENDRA BAHADUR,
RAJA OF DHENKANAL.

Dhenkanal.

DHENKANAL is one of the Tributary States of Orissa in Bengal. The State is said to derive its name from an aborigine, named Dhenka, who was in possession of a small strip of land, the site of the present Palace. According to the story, he was killed in a nullah or hill stream, by a scion of the Khurda family, who founded the Dhenkanal Raj in the middle of the seventeenth century. The State was soon extended by conquests from neighbouring chiefs, the largest acquisitions being made during the time of Trilochan Mahendra Bahadur (1756-98 A.D.) The present chief's grand-father, Bhagirath Mahendra Bahadur, was an enlightend ruler and was made a Maharaja in 1869 A.D. He died in 1877 A.D. leaving behind his reputation as a wise and generous prince, whose memory is respectfully cherished by the people of Dhenkanal to this day.

Raja Sir Pratap Mahendra Bahadur, the present ruler of Dhenkanal, was installed on the *gadi* in 1906 A.D., with the full powers of a Feudatory Chief. Since his accession he has done great many improvements in his State. In recognition of his sound and effective administration on improved lines, he has received additional powers from Government in 1909 A.D.

The area of the Dhenkanal State is 1463 square miles, and its population is 2,69,853. It yields a revenue of 2-19 lakhs and pays a tribute of Rs. 5,099 to the British Government.



MAHARAJA SIR RAMESHWAR SINGH BAHADUR.
MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA.

Darbhangha.

DARBHANGA is a rich Zamindari Estate in Bengal, comprising lands situated in the District of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Monghyr, Purnea, and Bhagalpur with a total area of more than 2,410 square miles. The Darbhanga Raj family traces its origin to one Mahesh Thakur, who is said to have come from Jubbulpore about the beginning of the sixteenth century. He took service as a priest with the descendant of Raja Siva Singh, who still exercised a nominal supremacy in Tirhut, but when it collapsed before the advancing Muhammadan power, Mahesh Thakur induced Akbar to grant him what are now termed the Darbhanga Raj Estates. He and his descendants received from the Moghul Emperors, the title of Raja and other honours, which were continued to the family, on the condition that the Rajas of Darbhanga should do justice, relieve distress, and put the country in a flourishing condition. These stipulations have been faithfully carried on from generation to generation by the Rajas of Darbhanga, who are known to be lovers of justice and friends of the poor in Bengal.

During the first half of the 19th century, misarrangement and litigation beset the estate with considerable difficulties, but they only resulted in the decided impartibility of the estate and the regulations of the inheritance by primogeniture; and owing to a long minority of over twenty years from 1860 A.D. onwards, during which the estate was under the Court of Wards, it is now in a flourishing condition. The late Maharaja Lachmeshwar Singh, who died in 1898 A.D., was a loyal supporter of Government, who wielded great influence among the landed aristocracy of Bengal, while the whole Hindu population regarded him with affection and veneration. He is succeeded by his younger brother, Maharaja Sir Rameshwar Singh Bahadur, a man of learning and accomplishment

Like his late lamented and honoured brother, the present Maharaja is held in high estimation by Government, who have displayed their appreciation of his grasp of the burning questions of the day and the moderation of his judgement, by entrusting to him responsible public duties. He was appointed a member of the Police Commission in 1900 A.D., where he showed considerable ability and independence of opinion, which won for him great admiration of the Government as well as the public. His work in the Legislative Council and other public bodies is too well known to be mentioned here, which fitly claims for him the first and foremost place among the leaders to public opinion in Bengal, and also in British India. He has recently won the heart of the Hindu Community by taking up the cause of the Hindu University, to which he has given a princely donation of five lakhs. Maharaja Sir Rameshwar Singh has received several distinctions from the British Government for his valuable services to the public cause.

Darbhangha town has been the head quarters of the family since 1762 A. D., prior to which date they resided at Madhuban.



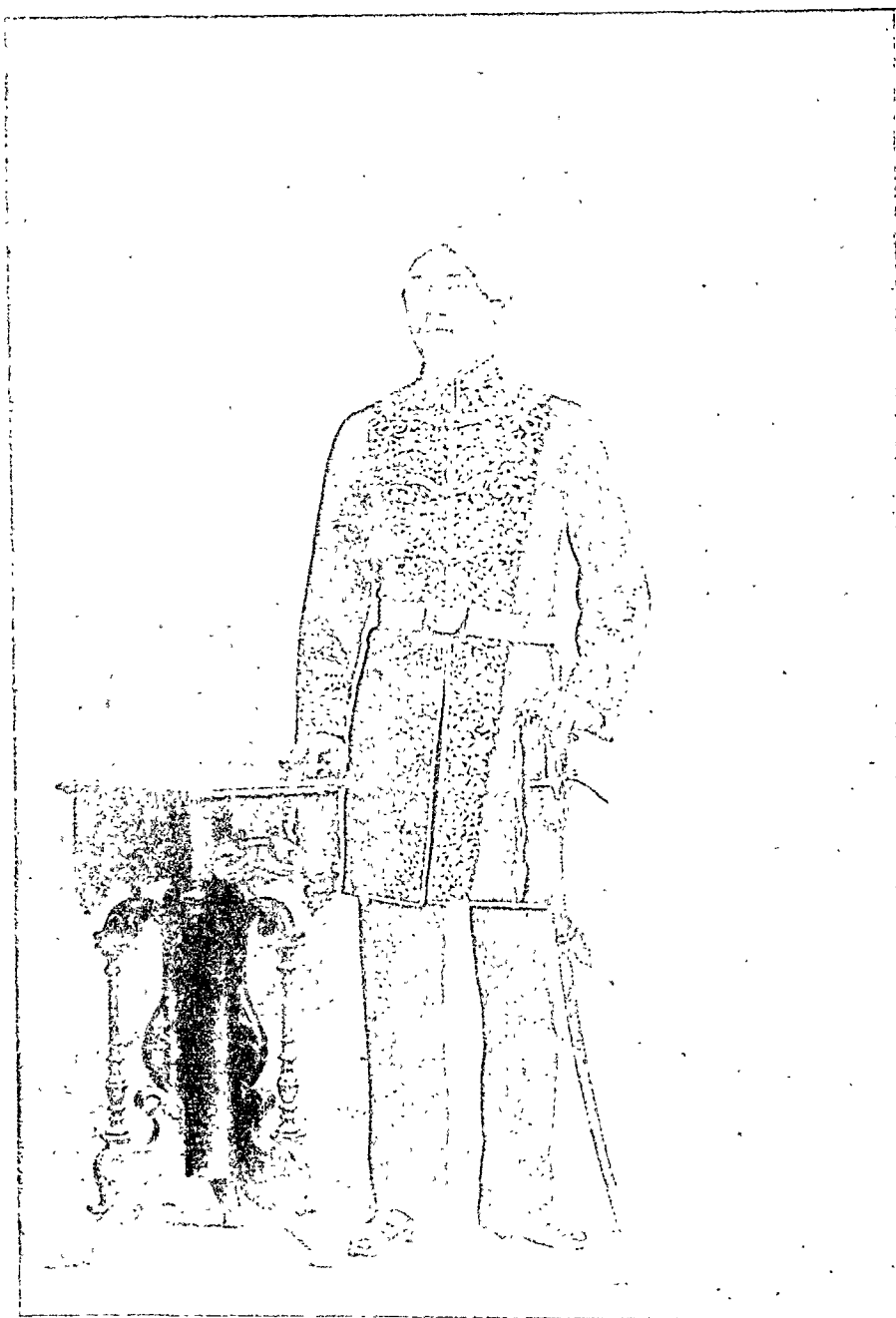
H. H. MAHARAJA SIR RAWANESHWAR PRASAD SINGH BAHADUR K. C. I. E.
MAHARAJA OF GIDHOUR.

Gidhour.

THE historic house of Gidhour claims for its founder Raja Bir Bikram Singh, a lunar Rajput of the renowned Chandel class, who emigrated from his home in Central India about the thirteenth century, and, after staying with a local Dosadh ruler who held sway over large estates in the neighbourhood, established the Gidhour Raj. Raja Puran Mal, eighth in descent from Bir Bikram, built the great temple of Baidyanath. According to "Ain-i-Akbari", the Rajas of Gidhour were required to furnish 259 horse and 10,000 foot whenever needed for Imperial Service. The fourteenth Raja, Dalan Singh, obtained firman from the Emperor Shah Jahan in 1650 A.D. Five generations after, in 1798 A.D., Raja Gopal Singh was recognised by the British Government and the permanent settlement of the Raj was made with him.

The present representative of this ancient and premier house is Maharaja Sir Ravaneshwar Prasad Singh Bahadur K.C.I.E. He is the grandson of the late illustrious Maharaja Sir Jai Mangal Singh Bahadur K.C.S.I., who rendered valuable services to the British Government in the suppression of the Santal Insurrection of 1853 A.D., and also in the memorable Mutiny of 1857 A.D. Maharaja Sir Jai Mangal Singh's magnificent free gift to the East Indian Railway, of all the lands required within the State, for the Chord Line, is worthy of note along with his munificent charities during the famine of 1874 A.D. At the Delhi Durbar of 1877 A.D. the title of "Maharaja Bahadur" was made hereditary in the family, in recognition of its devoted loyalty and staunch support to the British Throne.

The present Maharaja, Sir Rawaneshwar Prasad Singh, who was installed on the *gadi* on the 18th September 1885 A.D, is an orthodox Hindu, a model ruler, and a wise statesman. He has made his life an ideal of 'Duty' and of noble simplicity. He is the guiding spirit in every good cause and the best promoter of peace and goodwill in Bengal. True to his family tradition he is loyal to the core, and in him the Government has reposed its profound confidence, of which he has always proved himself worthy. He is blessed with a son and heir, the Maharaja-Kumar Chandra Mouleswar Prasad Singh Bahadur, who promises to be a worthy son of his worthy father.



MAHARAJA SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHANJ DEO,
MAHARAJA OF MAYURBHANJ.

Nashipur.

NASHIPUR Raj Estates are in the Murshidabad district, and its capital is situated on the left bank of the Bhagirathi, about a mile north of the city. The Raj covers an area of about 3,40,000 acres, and is computed to produce a revenue of about Rs 15,00,000 lakhs. It is one of the most fertile tracts of Bengal, and the Raj has been admirably managed for a period of 150 years.

The Nashipur family ranks among the noblest families in India. The present representative of this ancient and historic house is Maharaja Ranjit Singh Bahadur, who has gained distinction in the administrative and legislative fields of public activity. He claims his descent from Maharaja Tarawah who is said to have flourished in the court of Bijapur in Deccan. One of his ancestors Raja Devi Singh, rendered valuable services to Clive at Plassey, and the present Maharaja continues the loyal traditions of his house, being a staunch supporter of Government. In recognition of his worth, he has been accorded the Hindu title of "Maharaja," and his influence for good extends far beyond the limits of his own possessions. He did excellent work as a member of the Bengal Legislative council; and as a loyal supporter of the British Rule, he published an appeal in Bengali language, which contained very thoughtful advice to his countrymen, and produced such a deep impression among the masses. The Maharaja is a devout Hindu with liberal ideas, and in this respect, keeps of the traditions handed down by his predecessors. He is universally popular and is respected by all his officials and dependents. In addition to his business capacity, the Maharaja is distinguished by his cultured tastes and polished manners. The Maharaja is very happy in his domestic life and has a family of five sons and four daughters.



RAJA UDIT NARAYAN SINGH DEO BAHADUR.

RAJA OF SARAİKELA.

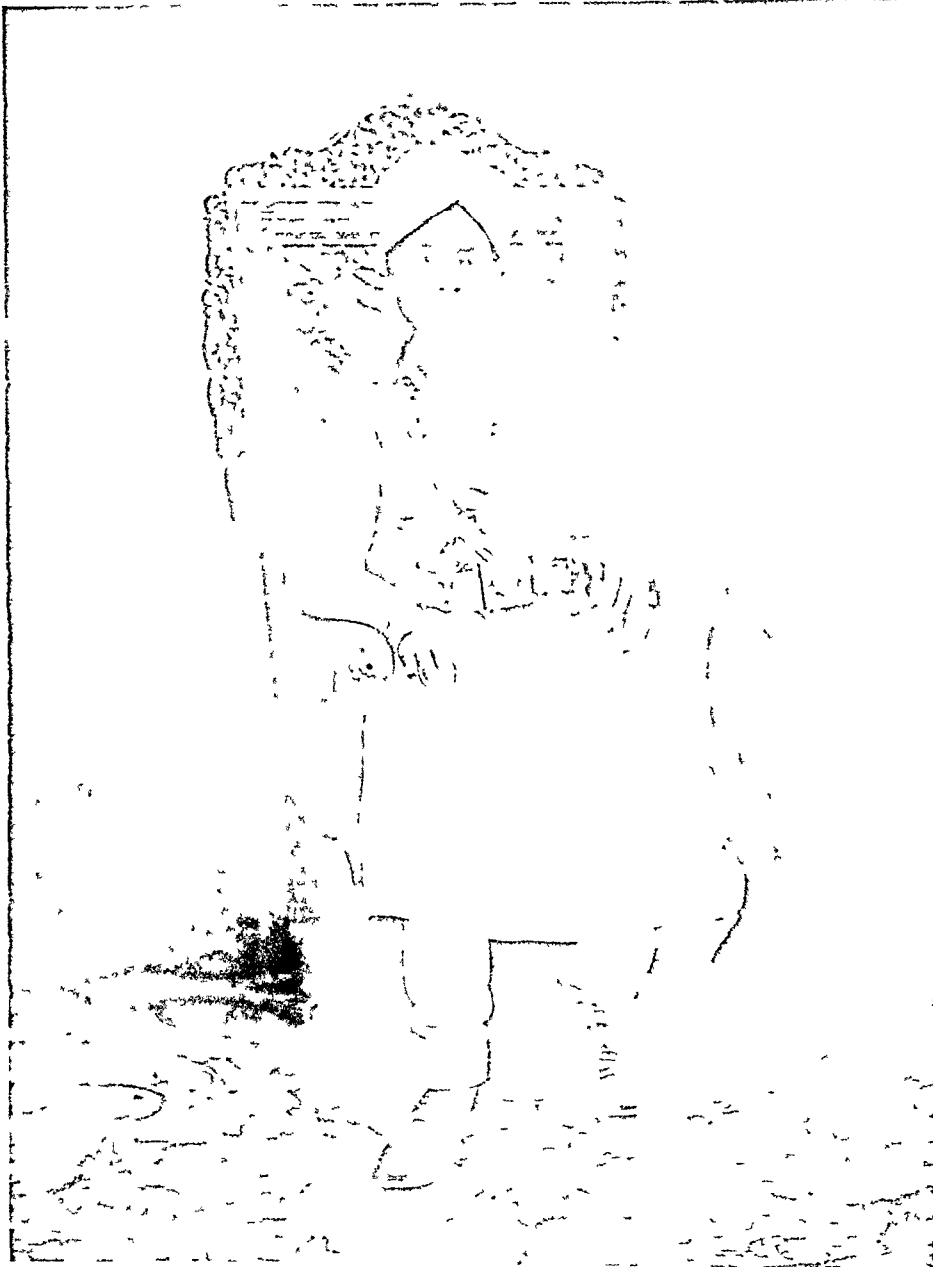
Saraikela.

SARAIKELA is a Feudatary State in Chota Nagpur, Bengal. It consists chiefly of an undulating plain, dotted with small rocky hills, and contains throughout a wild and romantic scenery in places.

The Chief of Saraikela traces his descent from the noble stock of Rathor Rajputs of Jodhpur. The first ruler of Saraikela was Bikram Singh, a younger son of the Porahat Raj family. Obtaining part of what is now the Saraikela State as a fief, he quickly made himself independent. He and his descendants enlarged their dominions from time to time, and gradually eclipsed the parent family of Porahat in power and importance. Saraikela first came under the notice of the British in 1793 A.D., when, in consequence of the disturbances on the frontier of the old Jungle Mahals, its chief was compelled to enter into engagements relating to fugitive rebels. Ten years later, Lord Wellesley, the Governor-General, invited Kunwar Abhiram Singh, an ancestor of the present Raja, to render assistance in the war against Raghuji Bhonsla, Mahratta ruler of Nagpur. During the war with Bhonsla in 1803 A.D., Abhiram Singh did excellent services to the Bengal Government, for which he was exempted from paying any tribute whatever to the British. Raja Chakradhar Singh, the father of the present ruler, received the personal title of Raja Bahadur in 1856 A.D. He rendered valuable services during the mutiny of 1857 A.D., which were rewarded with a rich *khat* of Rs. 10,000, twelve guns with ammunitions, and a rent free grant in perpetuity of the sub-estate of Saraikela a portion of the escheated territory of the rebel Raja of Porahat.

The present Chief of Saraikela, Raja Udit Narayan Singh Deo Bahadur, who succeeded to the *gadi* in 1885 A.D., rendered assistance to the British Government in the Bonai and Keonjhar risings of 1888 and 1891 A.D., and has received special distinctions and a present of a gun with the chief's name engraved on it. Raja Udit Narayan is a benevolent and popular ruler, who has endeared himself to all his subjects by his good character and charitable deeds.

The area of the State is 500 square miles with a population of 196,175 persons. The total revenue of the State is Rs. 72,000.



MAHARAJA SHRI BIR MITRODAYA SINGH DEO ,
MAHARAJA OF SONPUR

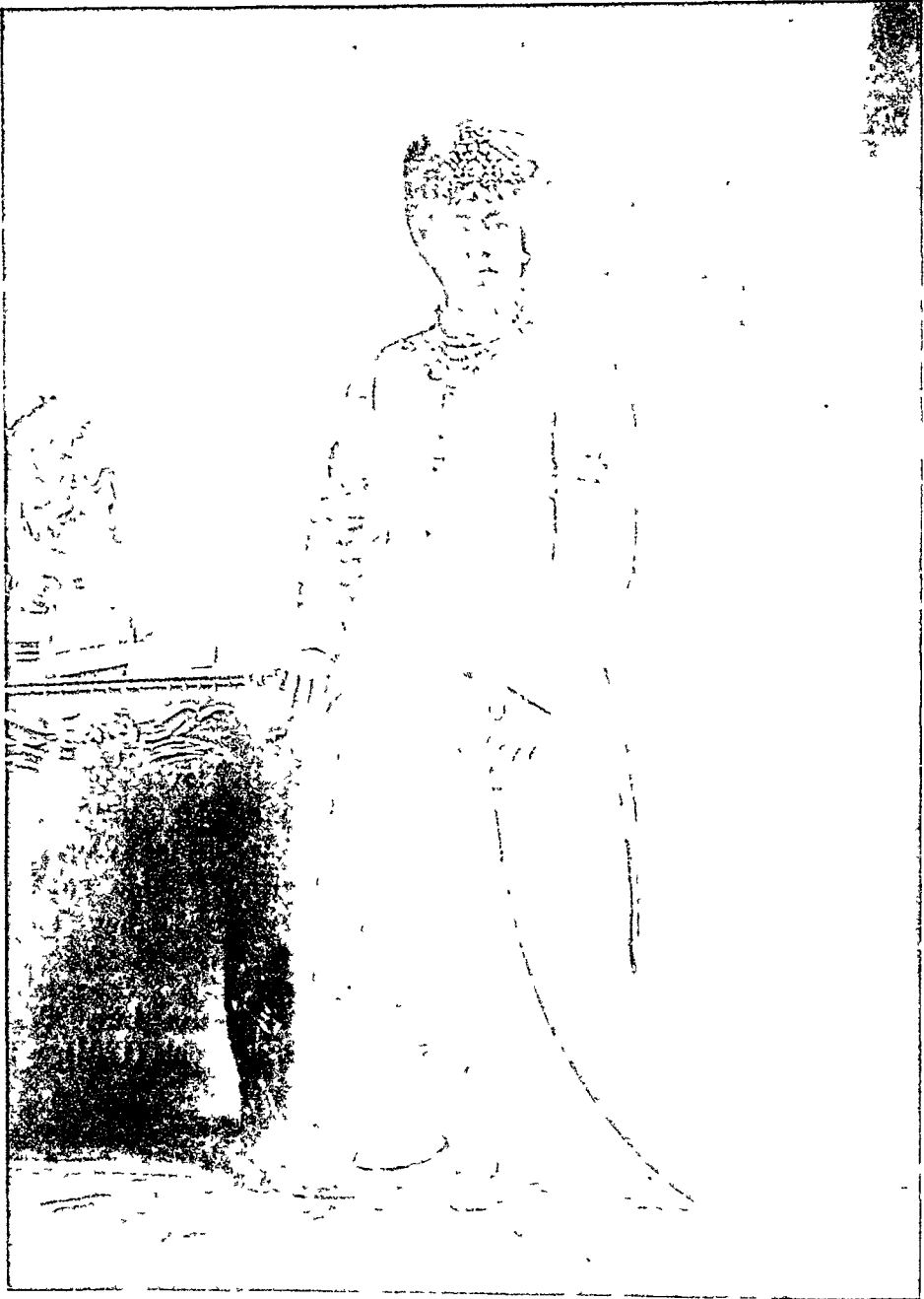
Sonpur.

SONPUR is a Feudatory State in Bengal. It lies to the south of Sambalpur district on both sides of the Mahanadi river, between Patna on the west and Rairakhol on the east. The head-quarters are at Sonpur, 54 miles distant from Sambalpur by road. The State was transferred from the Central Provinces to Bengal in 1905 A.D.

The Feudatory Chief of Sonpur traces his pedigree through a continuous line of the famous Chohan Rajputs of whom Prithwiraj was the last Emperor of Delhi. They first established their rule at Patna in the 12th century A.D. as overlords of a cluster of states, then known by the name of 'Athara Garjat', a tract lying to the north of Chota Nagpur and to the east of the district of Bilaspur. The branch of the family of Chohan chiefs of Patna came to Sambalpur, and Madhukar Sah, fourth Raja of Sambalpur, conquered this country about 1556 A.D., and settled on his son, Raja Madan Gopal, of whom the present ruling family are the direct descendants. Raja Nildhar Singh Deo, the grandfather of the present chief, obtained the title of Raja Bahadur for valuable services rendered to the British Government during the Sambalpur insurrection. He died in 1891 A.D. and was succeeded by his son, Pratap Rudra Singh Deo, who obtained the same title, in recognition of the improved methods of administrations introduced by him. He died in 1902 A.D., and was succeeded by his son, Raja Bir Mitrodaya Singh Deo, a very intelligent and clever prince, who had for some time taken an active part in the administration.

Maharaja Shri Bir Mitrodaya Singh Deo, who is loved by his subjects as a just ruler, has travelled almost all over India, and was present at the Coronation Durbars that were held at Delhi in 1903 and 1911 A.D. He enjoys, in the words of Sir Andrew Fraser, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, "the character of a good ruler, shrewd, economical, just and reasonably progressive." He is a lover of literature and has published translations of some Sanskrit classics into Oriya language.

The annual revenue of the Sonpur State is about Rs. 1,20,000. The area of the State is 906 square miles with a population of 169,877 souls (1901). The inhabitants of the State are practically all Oriyas, and speak that language.



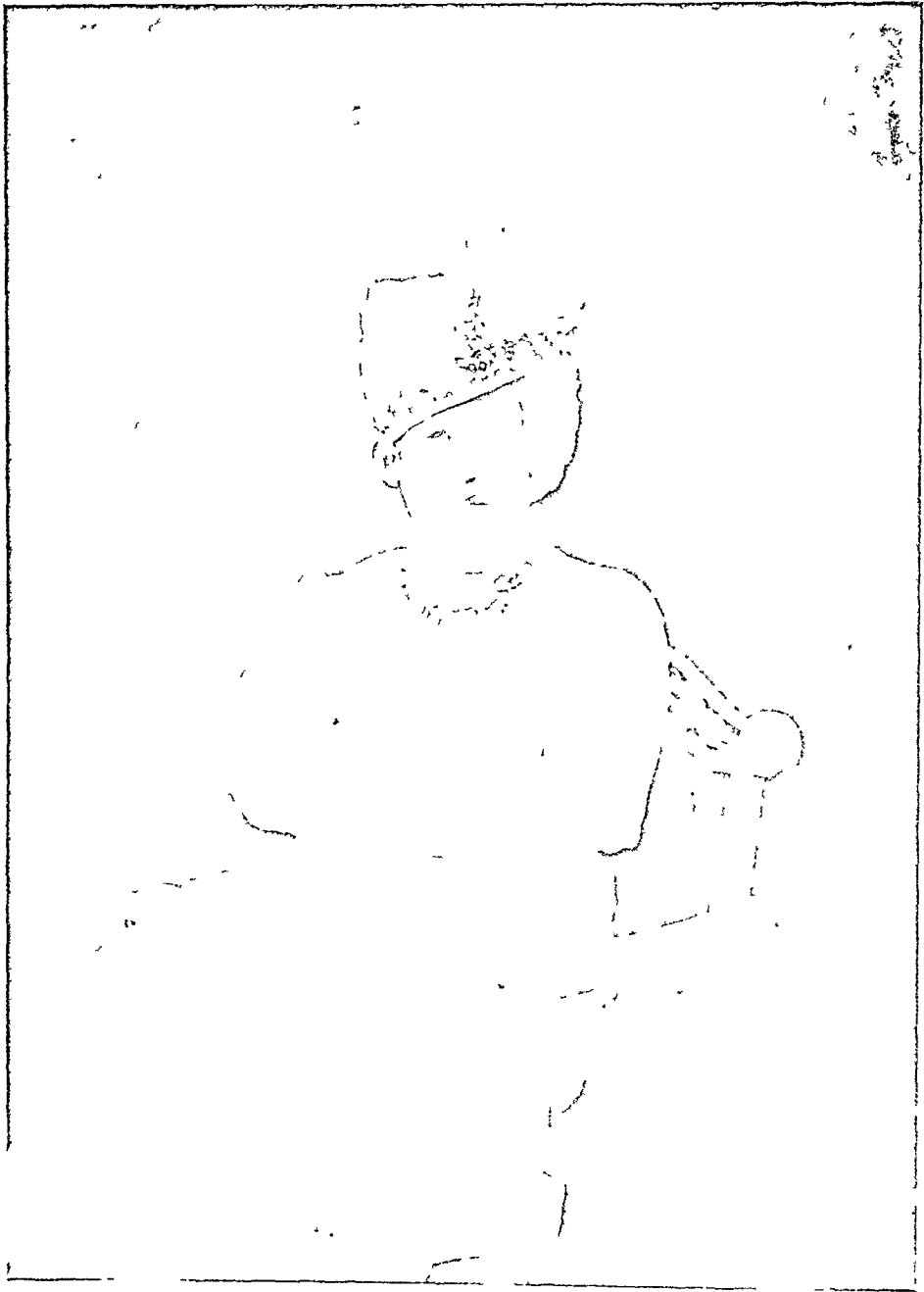
MAHARAJA GOPAL SARAN NARAYAN SINGH,
MAHARAJA OF TEKARI

Tekari.

TEKARI Raj is a large zamindari Estate in the District of Gaya in Bengal. The Tekari Raj was founded by a small landed proprietor, named Dhir Singh, at the beginning of the eighteenth century. His son, Sunder Singh, a Babhan, took advantage of the confusion created by the invasion of Nadir Shah in 1739 A.D. to lay hands on all property within his reach that he was strong enough to keep. The title of Raja was conferred on him by Muhammad Shah, Emperor of Delhi, as a reward for the assistance he rendered to Ali Vardi Khan, Subhadar of Bengal and Behar, in resisting an invasion of the Mahrattas. His adopted son Buniad succeeded him, but was treacherously drowned by Kasim Ali in 1762 A.D. in revenge for his allegiance to the British. At the time, Buniad's son, Mitrajit, who was only a few months old, was with difficulty saved from Kasim Ali's emissaries. After Kasim Ali's defeat at the battle of Buxar, Mitrajit was made over by Dalil Singh, his father's Diwan, in whose charge the boy had been placed, to the British Commanding Officer. He was subsequently restored to his estates and became a staunch friend to the British, assisted in quelling the Kothan rebellion, and was honoured with the title of Maharaja. He died in 1840 A.D. when the Raj divided between his two sons, the elder, Hit Narayan, getting a 9 annas share, and the younger, Mod Narayan, 7 annas.

The present representative of the elder branch of the Tekari Raj is Maharaja Gopal Saran Narayan Singh, who was given the charge of his Estates in 1904 A.D. The representative of the younger branch, Raj Kumari Bhubaneshwar Kunwar being a minor is under the guardianship of her grand-mother.

The share of 9 annas contains 551 villages with a total area of 309 square miles, and that of 7 annas 715 villages with an area of 523 square miles. The rent-roll of the former is about 7.34 lakhs while of the latter is about 6 lakhs.



H H RAJA BIRENDRA KISHORE DEVA VARMA MANIKYA BAHADUR
RAJA OF TIPPERA

Tippera.

THE native State of Tippera (from "Tripura") or Hill "Tippera" lies between 22°58" and 24°32" north latitude, and 91°10" and 92°22" east longitude and is bounded on the north by the British District of Sylhet, on the west by the Districts of Tippera and Naokhali, on the south by Naokhali, Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill tracts. As the name "Hill Tippera" indicates, the country is hilly, being traversed by numerous ranges of hills, varying in height from 100 feet to over 3000 feet. The hills are generally overgrown with luxuriant vegetation and the intervening valleys are drained by a system of meandering rivers that often change their courses and leave at intervals swamps of considerable area. The plains for the most part fringe the border, but vast fertile tracts not unfrequently occur in the interior where they present a striking contrast with the precipitous hill ranges, running in rude parallelism with one another. The climate is healthy and salubrious.

Various theories have been advanced as to the origin of the name Tripura but only two amongst these have authentic basis. They are both of prehistoric age. The one is propounded by the "Rajmala" or the "chronicles of the Kings"—a work of great interest and rare historic value, which commenced as early as in the 15th century. The ruling family according to the Rajmala is descended from Drudya a son of Jajati of the lunar race, who, as the great epic Mahabharat says, was disinherited by his father, King Jajati, and migrated to the *Kirat* land in the east, where after conquering several kings of the locality, he established a great kingdom with *Tribeg* as its capital. His son, (according to another story his descendant)—Tripur was the founder of the dynasty and the originator of the name "Tripura." The other tradition is based on the "Pithamala" of mythological age.

“त्रिपुरायां दक्षपादो देवी त्रिपुरसुदरी

भैरवस्त्रिपुरेश्च सर्वामिष्ट प्रदायकः”

Therefore, on the authority of the said treatise, the country was known by the name of Tripura long before the period of events narrated in Mahabharat occurred, or that the region where the limb of the Goddess fell was called after her name "Tripura Sundari". The Rajmala gives to the world an interesting geneological table, according to which the present Maharaja is 175th in descent from the founder of the dynasty. Tripur's son, Trilochan, is mentioned in the Mahabharat as the King of Tripura. The State has a separate era of its own, the present year being 1321 T. E. The era began in commemoration of a successful invasion of Bengal by Raja Bir Raj, from whom the present Maharaja is 94th in descent. The early history of the dynasty is divided into two distinct periods—traditional and historical, and it is very interesting from various points of view.

The present ruler, His Highness the Raja Birendra Kishore Deo, assumed the charge of the Raj on the 13th March 1903 A.D. The installation ceremony took place on the 25th November 1909 A.D. and was attended by His Honour Sir Lancelot Hare Lieutenant-Governor of the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, as also by His Highness the Maharaja of Manipur. His Highness has married in the ruling family

THE IMPERIAL DUBAR ALBUM.

of Nepal of the Solar race. Handsome, accomplished, and amiable in manners, the present ruler of the State has a striking personality. A past master in painting and some other allied fine arts, a musician of no mean order, while possessing a good taste for industrial and useful arts. His Highness is a literary man, but positive science and art have also large shares alike in his gift and acquirement. Indeed he is a worthy grandson of the late Maharaja Birchandra, whose fame in these respects had spread far and wide. His Highness takes a keen and active interest in the affairs of the State and well-being of his subjects, and is always in touch with the administrative machinery of the Raj. His Highness has an heir duly nominated, Srila Srijukta Bir Bikram Kishore Deo Varma. Jubraj, Goswami Bahadur.

The Hill Tippera State has an area of 4086 square miles, and a population according to the last census, of 2,29,641 souls. The State pays no tribute but is at present subject to the Nazarana rules. Both as regards constitution and its relations with the British Government, it holds an unique position. The ruler of the State holds extensive landed property in Chakla Roshanabad and the Laharpur Estates, covering altogether an area of nearly 600 miles, and yielding an annual income of about 9 lakhs. The succession is hereditary, subject to the nomination of the Ruling Chief and the formal recognition of Paramount power. There is resident British Political Agent in the capital town.

The present Maharaja, His Highness the Bisama-Samara-Bijoyee-Mahamahodaya Panchashrijukta Raja Birendra Kishore Deva Varma Manikya Bahadur, is entitled to a salute of 13 guns.

ASSAM & BHUTAN.



HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SIR UGYEN WANGCHUK TONGSA PENLOP
MAHARAJA OF BHUTAN.

Bhutan.

BHUTAN is a mountainous country, lying in the heart of the Himalayas between "89 and 92" degrees east Longitude and "27 and 28" degrees north Latitude. It extends from about 190 miles from West to East along the southern slopes of the central portion of the Himalayas. Its average breadth is 90 miles. The country nearest to the plains of India consists of a series of short broken gorges. The mountains vary in height from 4000 to 16000 feet. The rain-fall in this zone is very heavy. The excessive moisture, combined with the heat, has clothed the mountain sides with tropical forests with impenetrable undergrowth. The rest abounds in series of wide and parallel valleys which, owing to a more moderate rainfall, are clothed with vegetation such as firs, pines, junipers, oaks &c. The country is as fertile as Nepal.

The country formerly belonged to a tribe called Tek-paz. About the middle of the 17th century some Tibetan troops were sent from Kham, the eastern province of Tibet. A fight ensued, the Tek-paz gave way and retreated to the plains, with the exception of a few who remained in a menial captivity. After a time they were visited by a traveller, Lama Shap-trung Lha-pa, who having acquired great influence was eventually made ruler under the title of 'Dhurma Raja'. Since that time, the form of Government of Bhutan consisted of a dual control jointly exercised by the Clergy and Laity in the person of the Dharma and Dev Rajas as incarnations of former Lamas. These personages came by degrees to hold only nominal power, the real power passing into the hands of the powerful Penlops, who fought continually amongst themselves for the supreme authority, and nominated in turn their own puppets as the Dharma and Dev Rajas. Such was the form of Government in the past. The principal nobles and officers eventually united in offering the office of hereditary ruler of Bhutan to the Tongsa Penlop, a man of great strength of character and straight forwardness. In 1907 A.D. the Tongsa-Penlop was acknowledged as the hereditary Maharaja of Bhutan by the Bhutanese. His full name is His Highness the Maharaja Sir Ugyen Wangchuk Tongsa Penlop of Bhutan, who has received the high distinction of K. C. I. E. from the British Government. His Highness has one son and two daughters. The Maharaja receives a salute of 15 guns.

The fighting strength of the Bhutanese is 9950. It consists of the followers of all the Bhutanese Chiefs. The foreign relations of the country are controlled by the Government of India.

The revenue of Bhutan State is about Rs. 2,50,000. The area of the State is 18000 square miles and population is about 3,00,000 (no census has ever been taken.)



HIS HIGHNESS RAJA CHURA CHAND SINGH
RAJA OF MANIPUR

Manipur.

MANIPUR is a Native State lying to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. It consists of a great tract of hilly country, and a valley about 30 miles long and 20 miles wide, shut in on every side. The general appearance of the country is very pleasant, and the valley possesses all the attractions that Nature has bestowed upon it, and the climate is cool and pleasant.

The earliest mention of Manipur is found in the great epic Mahabharat. It is said that, Arjun, the third Pandava, during his sojourn in Manipur, became enamoured of a beautiful damsel, the only daughter of the king of Gandharvas by whom Manipur was supposed to be inhabited. Arjun married her. The only issue of this marriage was Babruvahan, who founded the dynasty of Kings who have been reigning since that time. The history of Manipur contains nothing of special interest until about 1714 A.D. In that year, a Naga named Panheiba became Raja of Manipur, and adopted Hinduism, taking the name of Garibnawaz. He reigned from 1709 to 1748 A.D. His influence extended even to Ava in Burma and to Cachar in the west. During his time, the Manipuris established a Burmese Raja on the throne of Ava, who acknowledged the supremacy of Manipur. From his time the Manipuris began to observe Hindu rites properly. During the reign of Bhagya-Chandra, this religion of the Manipuris took the form of Baisnabism. He built the temple of Shri Govindjee. About 1755 A.D. the Burmese for the first time invaded Manipur, and the ruler, Bharat Sai, who was also called Jai Singh, having sought the aid of British Government, a treaty of alliance was negotiated in 1762 A.D. The force sent to assist Manipur was, however, recalled, and after this, little communication passed between the British Government and the State for some years. On the out-break of first Burmese war in 1824 A.D. the Burmese invaded Cachar and Assam, as well as Manipur, and Gambhir Singh of Manipur asked for British aid, which was granted. A force of sepoy and artillery being sent towards Cachar, and a levy of Manipuris being formed under British officers, not only were the Burmans expelled from the Manipur valley, but the Kubo valley down to the Ningthi river, situated to the east of the old boundaries, and peopled by Shans, was added to the State. In 1826 A.D. peace was concluded with Burma, and Manipur was declared independent. Until 1834 A.D. when Gambhir Singh died, the country remained quiet and prosperous. On his death, his son, Chandra Kirti-Singh being at the time only one year old, Nar Singh, his uncle and great-grandson of Garibnawaz, was appointed Regent. Narsingh as regent ruled with ability and firmness and preserved the *gadi* for the infant Raja against the attempts of various enemies. But the Rani, mother of Chandra Kirti Singh, became jealous, and in 1844 A.D. contrived a plot to murder him, but failing in her attempt, fled with the infant Raja to Cachar. Thus Narsingh had no other recourse than to declare himself Raja. Narsingh was an able ruler, who governed the country with firm hand until his death in 1850 A.D. Debendra Singh, his brother, was then recognized as Raja by the British Government. Three months afterwards, Chandra Kirti Singh invaded Manipur, Debendra Singh, who was unpopular, fled towards Cachar, Chandra Kirti Singh having established his authority was in 1851 A.D. recognized by the British Government. He proved himself to be a strong and wise ruler, and rendered valuable services to the British Government in troubled times. In recognition of these services he was conferred on the dignified title

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of K.C.S.I.; and at one time he was presented with 500 Victoria muskets and twelve sporting rifles. He for the first time brought the hill tribes under proper control. After his death in 1886 A.D. his son, Sur Chandra Singh succeeded him for a short time, as he was expelled in 1890 A.D. by his half brother, Tikendrajit Singh, who made Kula Chandra Singh, the Raja of Manipur. Tikendrajit Singh became very powerful, and the Government fearing revival of former state of affairs and internal feuds wanted to remove him from the State, and punish him for his lawless conduct, and directed the Chief Commissioner of Assam to give effect to these orders. The sad events that followed in 1891 A.D. are fresh in the memory of all and will remain a great blot in the annals of Manipur history. As a consequence Kula Chandra was dethroned and transported to Andamans; and Chura Chand, a boy belonging to collateral branch of the royal house, was proclaimed as Raja of Manipur.

His Highness Raja Chura Chand was very young when he was thus called upon to the throne, so he was sent to the Mayo College at Ajmere where he received his education till 1901 A.D. After which he was sent to the Cadet Corps at Dehradun to receive his military training there. During his minority, the State was managed by the Government under the direct control of the Political Agent as Superintendent of the State. During the period material changes were made in the administration and the people of Manipur enjoyed peace and happiness. His Highness Raja Chura Chand Singh was formally installed on the *gadi* in 1907 A.D. at Utra, the ancestral throne-room, by Sir Lancelot Hare, the Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Since his accession, he has been ruling the State in an able manner in consultation of a Durbar or a council consisting of a European official and six Manipuri members. His Highness and the Durbar are indebted to Colonel Shakespeare, the Political Agent, whose sound advice and sympathetic attitude have materially done much good to the State. His Highness the Raja, being naturally very intelligent and energetic, takes great interest in the welfare of his State and thus the selection made by the British Government has proved a success.

The area of the Manipur State is 8456 square miles. The population in 1901 was 28465. The revenue of the State is 3,95,000 Rupees.



HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA THOTUL NAMGYAL
MAHARAJA OF SIKKIM.

Sikkim.

SIKKIM is a Native State in the Eastern Himalayas. It is bounded on the north and east by Tibet; on the south-east by Bhutan; on the south by Darjeeling District, and on the west by Nepal. The Tibetan name for Sikkim is pronounced Denjong, and more rarely Demojong or Demoshong; and the people are called Rong-pa or 'dwellers in the valleys', the term Mom-pa, or 'dwellers in the low country,' being used occasionally to describe the Lepcha inhabitants.

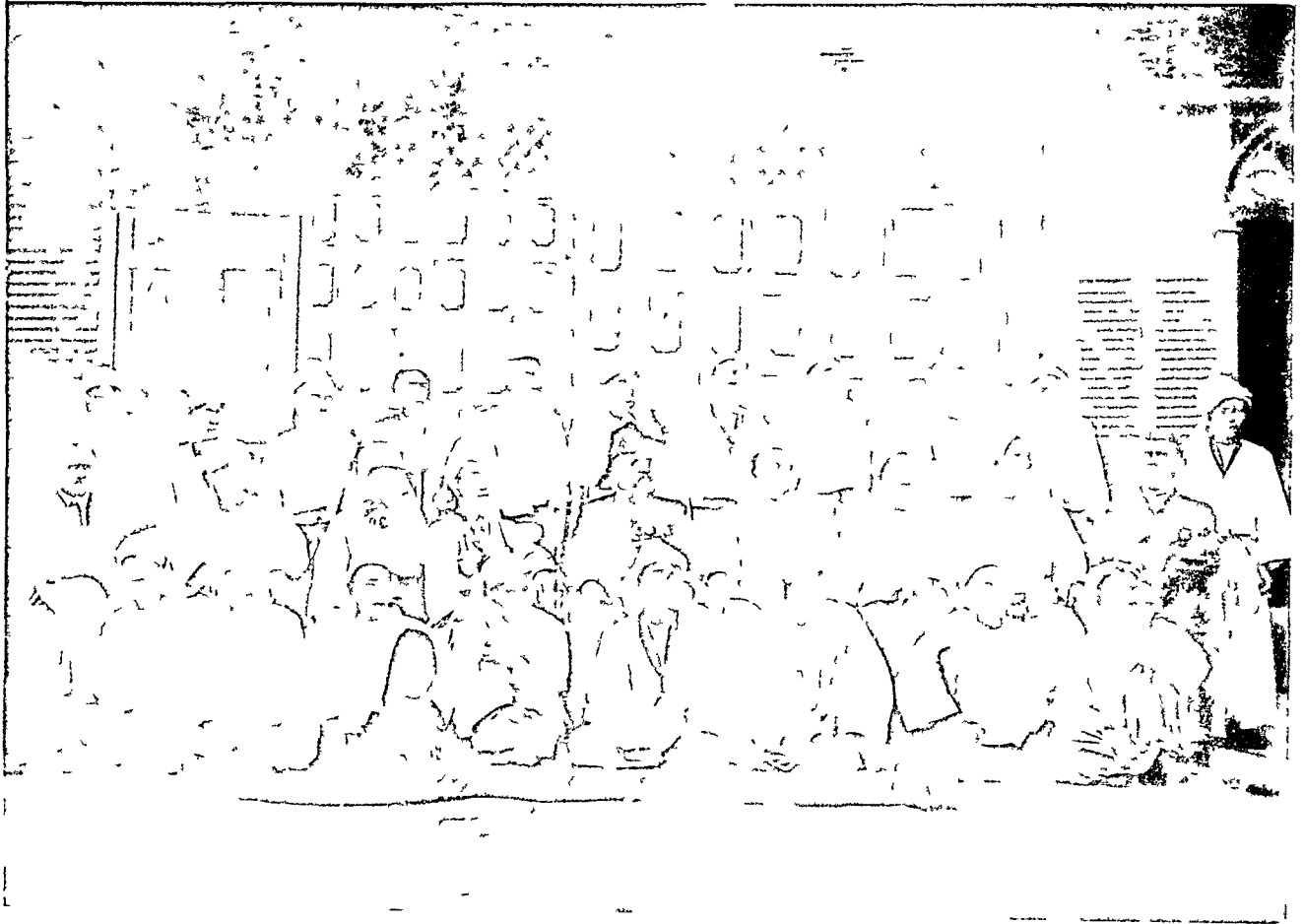
The country of Sikkim, though comprising an area of only 2,874 square miles, is one that presents almost every conceivable condition of climate and vegetation. Its mountains run up far beyond the snow line, reaching a height of 28,000 feet and conversly the valleys between them descend to a level of little more than 700 feet above mean sea-level. Every variation of temperature and moisture occurs in Sikkim, from the almost arctic nature of the higher elevation to that of the moist damp sun-heated valleys of the lower, which vie with the tropical Duars and Terai in their hot and unhealthy condition.

The present ruling dynasty claims to be of Tibetan origin and connected with the ruling dynasty of China through its ancestor Guru Tashi. The present ruler, His Highness Maharaja Thorul Namgyal is the son of the 7th Maharaja Tsug-phud Namgyal. He was born in 1860 A.D. and succeeded to the Gadi on the demise of his half brother, Sid-Koyong Namgyal, in 1874 A.D. The Maharaja has three sons:— (1) Tchoda-Namgyal (still in Tibet), (2) Sidkyong Tulkn (recognized by the Government of India in march 1899 as the heir), (3) Tra-shi Wang-gyel.

The State is administred by the Maharaja with the help of a Council and the Political Officer. Since the Tibetan expedition of 1904 A.D. the Political Officer has been directly responsible to the Government of India. The Maharaja receives a salute of 15 guns. There are no regular troops in Sikkim, but a small force of armed police is maintained by the State. A detachment from a Native Regiment is kept at Gangtok.

The annual revenue of the State is Rs. 1,91,500. It has a population of 88,248 souls, consisting of Bhutias, Lepchas and Nepalis.

BURMA.



SAO KAWN KIAO INTALENG K S M
SAWBWA OF KENG TUNG

Kengtung.

KENG TUNG is also one of the Southern Shan States. The Chief of the State, Sawbwa Sao Kawn Kiao Intaleng K. S. M., was born in 1875 A.D. and succeeded to the chiefship in 1897 AD. He shows an ever increasing interest in the affairs of his State and is very receptive of reforms and new ideas. He received the decoration of K. S. M. in 1901 A.D. in recognition of his efforts to abolish slavery, and at the Delhi Durbar of 1903 A.D. he was awarded a salute of 9 guns and a Durbar gold medal. He was invited to Rangoon to be presented to Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in January 1906 A.D.

The area of Kengtung State is 12,000 square miles with a population of 1,90,608 (census 1901 A.D.). The gross revenue of the State is Rs. 12,7,784, out of which Rs. 30,000 are paid to the British Government as its tribute.



KHUN LAI CIE KSM

SAWBWA OF LAI HKA

Lai Hka.

LAI HKA is a very small State belonging to the Southern Shan States. It has an area of 1433 square miles with a population of 25,811 (census 1901 A.D.) The Chief of the State is Khun Lai C.I.E., K. S. M. He was born in 1858 A.D. and succeeded Khun Nawng as Sawbwa in 1879 A.D. He married Sao Lao, the widow of his predecessor and daughter of famous Nai Noi (Kolan), Sawbwa of Mawkmai. He has opened up his State with roads and built good and expensive bridges. He has received the title of K. S. M. and insignia of C.I.E. His chief wife bears the title of Mahadevi granted by the Court at Mandalay. Both the Chief and the Mahadevi were invited to Rangoon on the occasion of the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1906 A.D.

The revenue of the State is Rs. 29,303 out of which Rs. 8 500 are paid to the British Government as annual tribute.



MONG NAI SAWBWA K.S.M., C.I.E. AND HIS QUEEN,
SAWBWA OF SOUTH HSENWI.

South Hsenwi.

THE State of South Hsenwi was formerly known to the Burmese as Theinni Ate-Let, and to the Shans as Hsenwi Kwan Kang, that is, the "Central Division" of the old State of Hsenwi. Its existence as a separate State dates from March 1888 A.D. Its history previous to that date forms part of the history of the old united State of Hsenwi.

Sao Naw Mong, the present Sawbwa (born 1855 A.D.) is a son of Hseng Naw Hpa, the last of the hereditary chiefs of the old Hsenwi State. Hseng Naw Hpa succeeded to the Sawbwa-ship in 1846 A.D., when the State was in a very disturbed condition. He proved unable to restore order, and he was recalled to Ava in 1849 A.D. A succession of Burmese officials followed and from time to time Hseng Naw Hpa was reappointed, but all attempts to suppress disorders and to establish a stable government failed. About 1868 A.D. an official named Sang Hai rebelled. He was joined by one Hkun Hsang Ton Hung (the present Sawbwa of North Hsenwi) who married his daughter, and succeeded him as leader of the faction opposed to the hereditary chief and to the Burmese. Hkun Hsang Ton Hung's party obtained possession of most of the northern part of the State, and successfully resisted the efforts which were made to oust him. Hsang Naw Hpa, however, was personally on good terms with the Burmese Court. One of his daughters was a queen of King Mindon, and another had married the Hmethpya Mintha (Mindon's son). His son, Nam Mong (the present Sawbwa) was educated at Mandalay, and passed his noviciate in one of the royal monasteries under the special patronage of the King. These were all at Mandalay when King Mindon died. They were arrested along with the members of the royal family who were regarded with suspicion of Thibaw, and who perished in the Palace massacres of February 1879 A.D. The young son of the Theinni queen (Hsang Nam Hpa's daughter) was torn from his mother's arms and cut to pieces, and the mother herself thrown into prison. Naw Mong shared the same fate. These brutalities proved to Hseng Nam Hpa that he need no longer look to the Burmese Government for assistance. He retired to the Kachin circle of Mong Si, north-east of Hsenwi town, and Hkun Hsang Ton Hung's party obtained undisputed possession of the capital. Meantime a man named Sang Aw, known as the Pa-ok-chok had established a sort of supremacy in the central division (the present State of South Hsenwi) and tried to maintain order. A Burmese official with a small force was at Lashio. He was utterly unable to enforce his authority, and though there was no fighting on a large scale between the contending factions, the State was devastated by robber bands.

The fall of Mandalay in 1885 A.D. was followed by the final withdrawal of the Burmese. It likewise led to the liberation of Naw Mong, who at once set out to recover his father's State. By the beginning of 1887 A.D. he had re-collected a following and occupied Lashio. Here, however, he was defeated by Hkun Hsang Ton Hung. The latter then crushed an attack by the Mong Si supporters of Hseng Naw Hpa and marching south, occupied Mong Yai (August 1887 A.D.) driving both Naw Mong and the Pa-ok-chok before him. After a time, however, he returned to Hsenwi town, and in the following year both leaders made their submission to the British Government. A conference was held at Mong Yai in March 1888 A.D. which resulted in the division

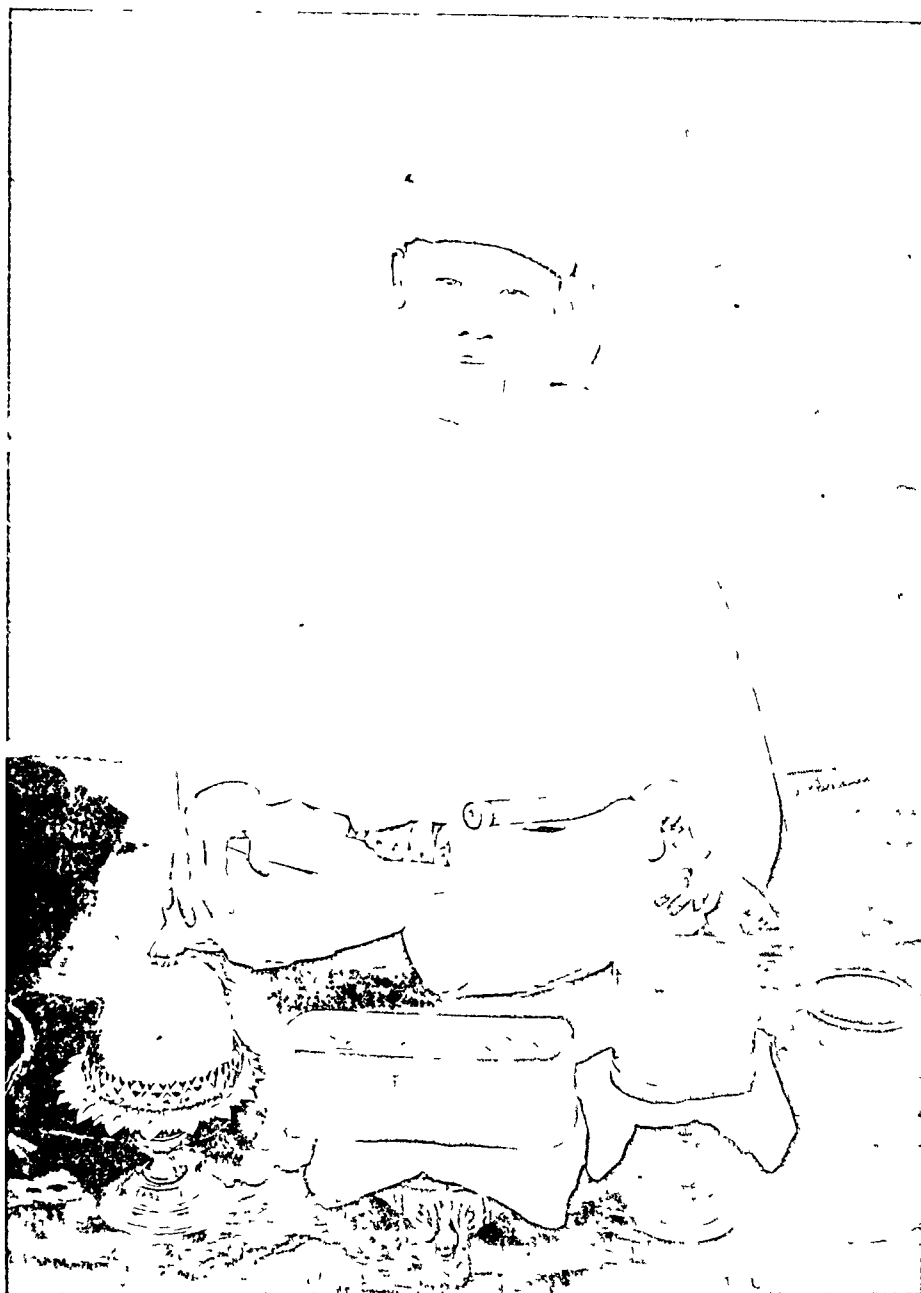
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of Hsenwi. Hkun Hsang Ton Hung received the Northern, and Naw Mong the Southern State. The Pa-ok-chok died shortly afterwards, and the aged Sawbwa Hseng Naw Hapa, who had resigned his claims in favour of his son, died in 1891 AD.

Since 1888 A.D. the State enjoyed peace and has increased in population. The revenue has risen from about Rs. 35,000 in 1897 A.D. to Rs. 1,02,566 in 1910 and 1911 A.D. The title of Kyet Thaye Zaung Shwe Salwe ya Min was conferred on the Sawbwa in 1896 A.D. and he was one of the Shan chiefs who attended the Delhi Durbar in 1902 A.D. An Assistant Superintendent with head quarters at Tangyan, has been in charge of the State since 1899 A.D.

The Sawbwa has nominated his eldest son, Sao Song, as his successor, and the nomination has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma.

The State has an area of 2500 square miles with a population of 85,110 (according to the census of 1911 A.D.). It pays a tribute of Rs. 22,000 to the British Government



HKUM HSANG AWAN K S M
CHIEF OF TAWNGPENG

Tawngpeng.

TAWNGPENG is one of the Northern Shan States in Burma. The capital of the State is at Namhsan which is a large village situated about 5000 feet above the sea at the northern end of one of the main hill ridges. It is 40 miles due north of Hsipaw. Tawngpeng is a Palaung State and the majority of the people belong to that race. The staple industry is the production of tea, which is exported to Burma and the Shan States.

The Palaungs are divided into numerous clans, each of which formerly had local self-government. Gradually, however, they were forced to unite for mutual protection. The first chief to establish his authority over the whole State was Sawbwaw Hkam Rung Mong. He is said to have been recognised by the Burmese Government in 1846 A.D. On his death in 1858 A.D., the Sawbwawship was seized by one Hkun Hsa. The son of Hkun Kung Mong, Hkun Gyaw, therefore, formed an alliance with two other leaders, Hkun Aung Hla and Hkun Kwan, and for three years fighting took place between the rival factions. Hkun Hsa was killed in 1861 A.D. Hkun Gyaw died in the same year, and in 1865 A.D. Hkun Aung Hla also died. Hkam Kwan obtained the chief power in the state and restored order. He paid homage to the Burmese Court and was recognised as Sawbwaw. He died in 1880 A.D. and was succeeded by his elder brother Hkam Mon. This Chief declined to meet the British Political Officer when a column marched up to Namhsan in 1887 A.D. His son, Hkam Tan Mong (or Hkun Kyan) was, however, put forward by the people, and was subsequently recognised by Government as Sawbwaw. Hkam Mon retired to a monastery, where he died in 1900 A.D. Hkun Kyan held the chiefship till 1895 A.D., when he resigned on account of ill-health. He died the following year. His cousin, Hkun Hsang Awn, was then recognised as administrator on behalf of Akun Kyan, and on the latter's death was appointed Sawbwaw. He is the present Chief of Tawngpeng State. He is ruling the State with the assistance of a Government officer since 1904 A.D. Considerable progress has been made in the administration, which has led to a notable increase of revenue, and old debts of the Sawbwaw have been extinguished. The title of K.S.M. was conferred upon the Sawbwaw in January 1910 A.D. Hkun Pan Hseng, the Sawbwaw's eldest son, has been nominated as his successor, and the nomination has been approved by the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma.

The State of Tawngpeng has an area of 800 square miles with a population of 31,135 people. The annual revenue of the State is about Rs. 3,29,441 of which Rs. 27,000 are paid to the British Government as tribute.

